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Telangana Today

FOR LOCAL TO GLOBAL NEWS

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In a nutshell

2,000 affected by floods in Odisha

BHUBANESWAR: The flood situation in Odisha's Balasore district due to heavy rain remained grim on Wednesday, affecting six blocks, following which authorities evacuated around 2,000 people to safer places. Chief Minister Mohan Majhi on Wednesday conducted aerial inspection of the flood-hit areas of Balasore and held a meeting with officials of district administration. IANS

Walkie-talkies explode, 9 killed

BEIRUT: Walkie-talkies and solar equipment exploded in Beirut and multiple parts of Lebanon on Wednesday in an apparent second wave of attacks targeting electronic devices a day after hundreds of pagers used by Hezbollah blew up, state media and Hezbollah officials said. At least nine people were killed and over 300 people wounded in the second wave. AP

WORLD PAGE 9

ONOE approved; Oppn objects

Centre accepts Kovind panel recommendations

PTI
NEW DELHI

Moving ahead with its 'one nation, one election' plan, the Centre on Wednesday accepted a high-level panel's recommendations for holding simultaneous polls for the Lok Sabha, State Assemblies and local bodies in a phased manner after a countrywide consensus-building exercise.

Home Minister Amit Shah hailed the Cabinet's decision, saying it will be a giant stride towards landmark electoral reforms in the country. Various opposition parties, however, said holding simultaneous polls is not practical. Asserting that several political parties are already on board, the Centre said even those parties that are opposed to it may now feel pressure from within to change their stand due to the widespread support on the issue from the people of the country.

Announcing the Cabinet's approval to the proposal, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said an implementation group would be formed to take forward the recommendations of the panel headed by former president Ram Nath Kovind and detailed discussions would be held on various fora across the country over the next few months. "We will seek to create a consensus over the next few months... Our government believes in creating a consensus on items which affect democracy and the nation in the long run. This is a subject, a topic that will strengthen our nation...," he said.

Responding to a question on the stand of opposition parties, the Minister said, "The Opposition might start feeling internal pressure (about 'one nation, one election') as more than 80 per cent of the respondents, who responded during the consultation process, have given their positive support, especially the youth. They are very much in favour of this."

Asked by reporters when the recommendations could be implemented and whether a Bill would be brought in the upcoming winter session of Parliament, Vaishnaw evaded a direct reply but pointed out that Shah has said the government would implement it in its current tenure. After the discussions are completed, implementation would follow in steps and it would be the government's endeavour to build a consensus over the next few months, he said.

(CHEAP STUNT: OPPN PAGE 7)

Now, worms in students' food triggers protest

STATE BUREAU
Karimnagar

Parents and students staged a protest at the Mahatma Jyotiba Phule BC Welfare Residential School (Girls), Gundlapalli of Ganneruvaram mandal, after worms were found in the food served to the students.

Parents visited the school on Sunday and were shocked to see worms in the meal served to the students. Furious, they tried to enter the school, but the staff closed the gates. Parents and students staged a protest at the entrance, with the local CPI leaders and activists extending their support to them.

The parents found fault with the school authorities for serving worm-infested food to the students, who were already suffering from dengue, malaria and other diseases. Stating that toilets and urinals were also in bad shape, they said staff prevented them from entering the school.

(SEE PAGE 2)

Kashmir Votes In Phase-1 Polls

A man shows his inked finger after casting his vote in J&K Assembly polls, in Anantnag. — Photo: PTI

BRS spearheaded TG's growth story

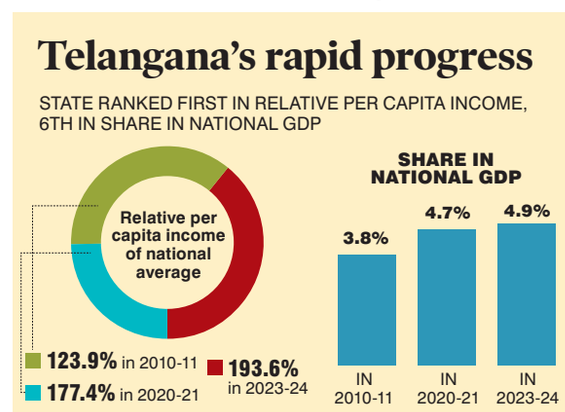
STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Notwithstanding the political mudslinging and whataboutery, the previous BRS regime is repeatedly proving to have played a key role in advancing Telangana's economic growth.

The State has not only excelled in relative per capita income, but also become a leading contributor to the national GDP during the BRS rule, in stark contrast to its position in erstwhile Andhra Pradesh.

A study of key economic indicators by the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, covering 54 years (1960-61 to 2023-24), revealed that Telangana outperformed other States in economic growth and recorded the highest relative per capita income level of 193.6 per cent of the national average. This marks a sharp rise from 123.9 per cent in 2010-11 and 177.4 per cent in 2020-21. Over the last 54 years, erstwhile Andhra Pradesh recorded relative per capita income with 89.9 per cent of the national average in 1960-61, 92.4 per cent in 1970-71, 75.4 per cent in 1980-81, 79.9 per cent in 1990-91 and 100.9 per cent in 2000-01. Since 2010-11, relative per capital income was recorded separately for TG.

(SEE PAGE 2)



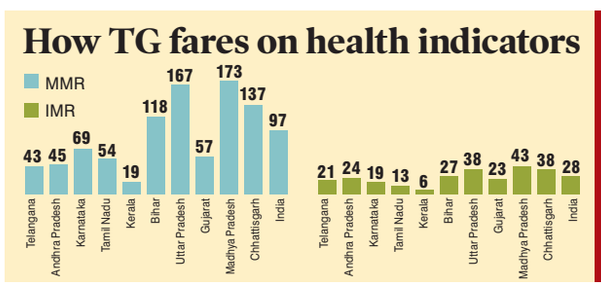
Gandhi sees spike in maternal, infant mortalities

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

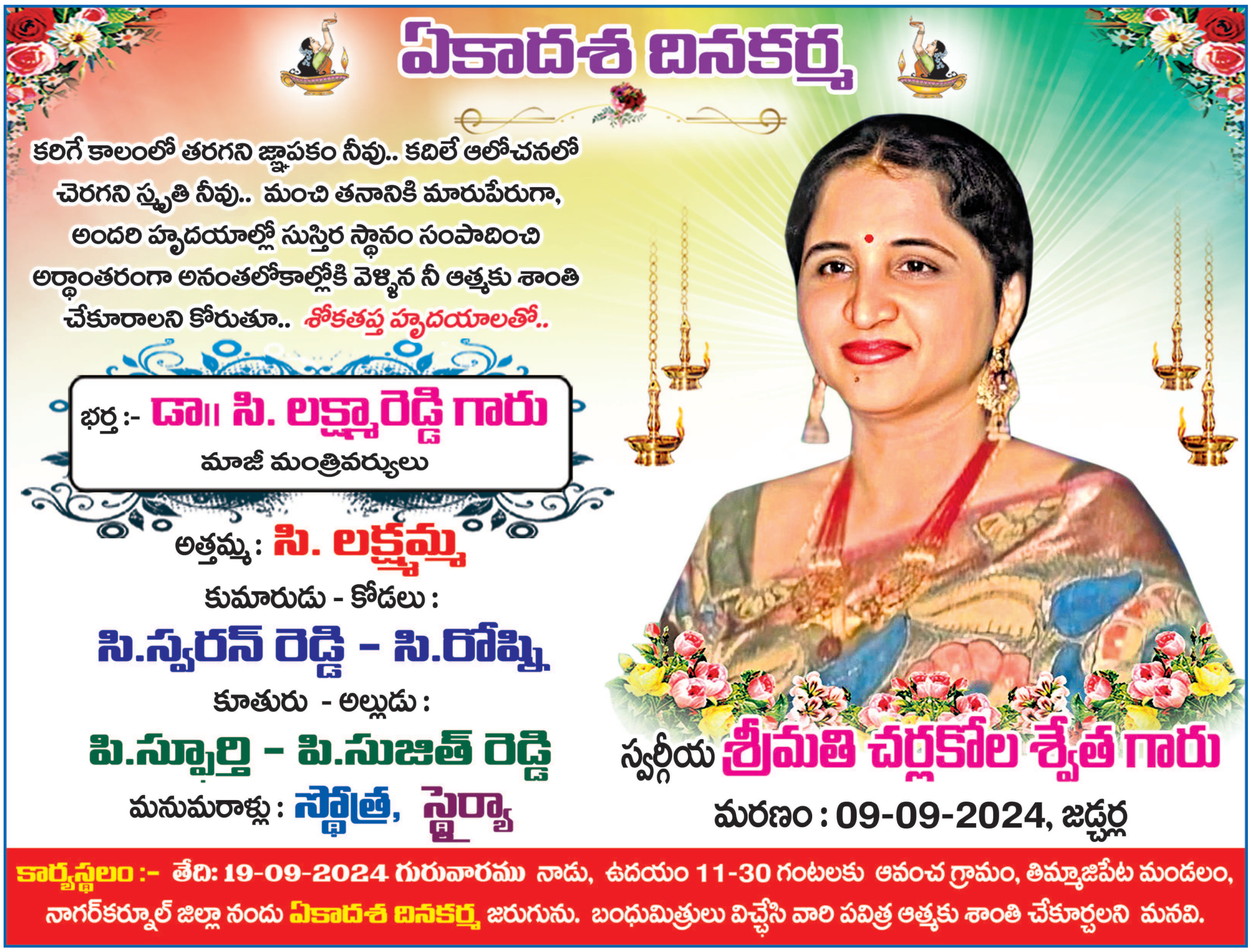
In a shocking development, the Mother and Child Health (MCH) centre at the State-run Gandhi Hospital has faced a significant surge in maternal and infant mortality rates this August. A total of 14 mothers and 44 infants have lost their lives at the facility last month.

The rise in maternal and infant deaths in just a month has not only raised concerns over the quality of care provided at the facility but has also threatened to undermine the progress made in improving maternal and child health in Telangana in the last one decade. While authorities have maintained that the MCH facility receives highly critical cases of mothers and infants with little time left for caregivers to revive them, such a high number of fatalities, however, has raised concerns over the supervision and quality of care at the premier government super-speciality hospital. Based on the information, between August 5 and 30, 14 mothers died of complications after delivery.

(SEE PAGE 2)



> **"THIS IS A TERTIARY HOSPITAL THAT RECEIVES HIGHLY CRITICAL CASES FROM ALL PARTS OF TELANGANA. AS A RESULT OF THE CRITICAL CONDITION OF THE MOTHER AND INFANT, IT IS QUITE NATURAL FOR THE HOSPITAL TO HAVE A HIGHER MATERNAL MORTALITY THAN OTHERS**
> — DR CH RAJAKUMARI, Gandhi Hospital Superintendent



FORECAST
Partly cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers

Max. tem: 32.8°C
Min. tem: 23°C
RH: 50%
Rainfall: Nil

Mercury rises as rains take a break

IMD predicts light to moderate rain in next few days

CITY BUREAU
HYDERABAD

With the rains taking a break after sustained pounding of the city, the mercury has been climbing up slowly yet steadily.

Despite the skies remaining cloudy most of the day, the weather has been sultry and uncomfortable for the last two days. On Wednesday, the day temperatures rose sharply across the city and in most places, they were recorded between 33 degree Celsius and 34 degree Celsius.

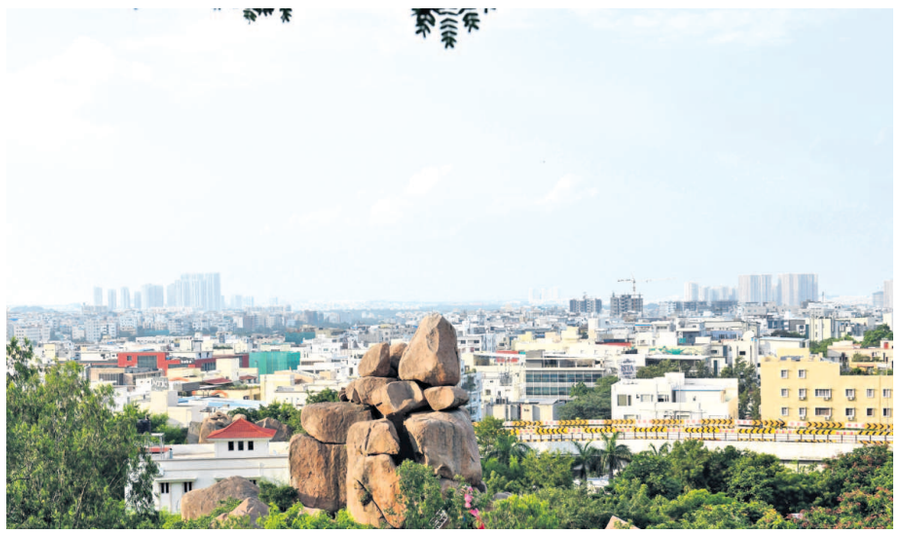
The rise in day temperatures was sharper in some places in the city with Kapra logging in the city's highest temperature for Wednesday at 35.2 degree Celsius followed by Chandanagar with 35 degree Celsius, according to the data collated by Telangana Development Planning Society.

Several other localities in the city such as Begumpet (34.5 degree Celsius), Secunderabad (34.2 degree Celsius) and Moosapet (34.1 degree Celsius) also had slightly increased day temperatures. The night temperatures in the city mostly hovered between 23 degree Celsius and 24 degree Celsius for the last 24 hours with only Serilingampally recording a dip in mercury during the night to 19.7 degree Celsius.

Meanwhile, the India Meteorological Department forecast for Telangana looks at rains returning to the State in a light to moderate manner during the next few days.

Yellow alert has been issued for Telangana on September 21 and 22 with forecast of thunderstorm accompanied with lightning and gusty winds (30-40 kmph) being very likely at isolated places in Adilabad, Kumuram Bheem Asifabad, Mancherial, Nirmal, Nizamabad, Jagital, Rajanna Sircilla, Karimnagar, Peddapalli, Jayashankar Bhupalapally, Mulugu, Mahabubabad, Siddipet, Sangareddy, Medak and Kamareddy districts.

For the city, the IMD-Hyderabad looks at the possibility of light rain or drizzle in parts of the city towards evening or night and the maximum and minimum temperatures likely to be around 32 degree Celsius and 23 degree Celsius respectively in the next 48 hours.



Despite the skies remaining cloudy most of the day, the weather has been sultry and uncomfortable for the last two days. — Photo: Anand Dharmana

DSP Nikhat reports to DGP

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Indian boxer Nikhat Zareen who was recently appointed as the Deputy Superintendent of Police by the government, reported to the Director General of Police, Dr Jitender here on Wednesday.

The DGP announced the appointment of the ace boxer with a post on the social media platform 'X'. "We proudly welcome two-time world boxing champion and Olympic athlete, Nikhat Zareen, as she takes on her new role as Deputy Superintendent of Police (Special Police). Hailing from Nizamabad, she submitted her joining report to me today," he said.

DGP Jitender handing over the government orders appointing boxer Nikhat Zareen as DSP.

The two-time world champion has been at the forefront of the sport in India over the past few years and also managed to bring home the Commonwealth Games Gold at the Birmingham Games.

Govt likely to shift JNAFAU to BRAOU campus in Jubilee Hills

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Jawaharlal Nehru Architecture and Fine Arts University (JNAFAU) is likely to get a new address in the city.

The State government is reportedly planning to shift JNAFAU to the Dr BR Ambedkar Open University (BRAOU) campus in Jubilee Hills. For this, the government is said to be considering the allotment of 10 acres of land at the open university to JNAFAU. A final decision is expected after the State Cabinet meeting scheduled for Friday. It is learnt that the government might allot the present JNAFAU campus to the Telangana Education Commission, which had recently been established with Akunuri Murali as its Chairman.

Meanwhile, the teachers, non-teaching employees and technical staff of the varsity have strongly criticised the government's reported move. They contended that since admissions were shooting up, the university required enough space for holding classes, examinations and practical sessions on the campus.

The university employees decided to submit a representation to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and Principal Secretary to Government (Education) Burra Venkatesham on Thursday opposing the government's proposal.

In Brief

HYDERABAD
Seed funding for KLH

KLH Aziz Nagar campus has announced that seven student-led startups have received seed funding to further develop their innovative products, addressing real-world challenges across various sectors. The projects which received funding include Linga Sai Naresh Chowdary's 'Animal Protection and Poaching Using YOLO', G Nandini's 'Anti-Theft Floor', V Sai Sathvika's 'Automated Public Lighting', P Harishith Chowdary's 'E-Clinic', S Sai Kiran's 'IoT-Based Plant Health Monitoring System' and Maroju Manju Bhargavi's 'Omni-Directional Cooler'.

HYDERABAD
UOWIndia's scholarship

The University of Wollongong India (UOWIndia) has announced 'The InAugural Scholarship' for its November student intake offering significant financial benefits to students applying for computing and fintech programmes. Applicable to students paying the deposit by October 4, the scholarship entitles a substantial reduction in tuition fees with 50% off for all master's degrees for the first trimester, and 25% off for all graduate certificate programmes for the first trimester to begin in November. Visit uow.edu.au/india/support/inaugural-scholarship/

HYDERABAD
TOSS exam schedule

The Telangana Open School Society (TOSS) on Wednesday released a detailed schedule for the SSC and Intermediate theory examinations, which will be conducted from October 3 to 9. The theory examinations are scheduled to take place in two sessions — 9 am to 12 noon and 2.30 pm to 5.30 pm. Practical exams will be conducted from October 16 to 23. For more information, visit the website https://www.telanganaopenschool.org .

Hyderabad sees surge in rental values

SOWMYA SANGAM
Hyderabad

The debate over whether to buy or rent a home in Hyderabad is intensifying as rental values surge, with some areas seeing significant hikes.

According to Anarock Research, rental values in Hyderabad's key micro-markets have increased substantially between the end of 2021 and H1 2024. Notably, areas like Gachibowli and Hitec City saw rental values rise by 50 per cent and 46 per cent, respectively, while capital values appreciated by 70 per cent and 59 per cent.

Dr Prashant Thakur, Regional Director & Head, Research — Anarock Group, said data analysis of key micro-markets in top seven cities shows that in cities like Bengaluru, Pune, Kolkata and Chennai, average residential rental values rose more than capital values between 2021-end to H1 2024. "However, in NCR, MMR and Hyderabad saw the reverse trend – capital values appreciated more than rental values. Such data can be a key parameter - though by no means the only one - used to determine whether it is more advantageous to buy a property or opt for renting," he said. For example, in Hitec City, average monthly rent rose from Rs 23,000 in 2021 to Rs 33,500 by mid-2024, while capital values grew from Rs 5,800 to Rs 9,200 per sft in the same period. Similarly, Gachibowli saw rents jump from Rs 22,000 to Rs 33,000, while capital values skyrocketed from Rs 5,010 to Rs 8,500 per sft.

MANUU invites applications for ITI courses

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) has invited applications from desirous candidates for admissions into vacant ITI trades offered by its ITI Hyderabad. The last date for submission of the filled in application form is September 23.

Application form can be obtained from MANUU - ITI Hyderabad, or can be downloaded from the university website www.manuu.edu.in .

The counselling will be held at ITI, MANUU campus here on September 25 from 9.30 am. For details, contact the ITI office in person or by telephone: 040-23008428 and 9440692452.

PEEK A BOO

A cop seen at the Mounted Police container vehicle stationed at the Moazamjahi Market on Wednesday. — Photo: Anand Dharmana

Telangana teacher elected as AIFTO president

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

PRTU TS president Pingili Sripal Reddy, a teacher from Telangana, has been elected as the working president of All-India Federation of Teachers Organisation (AIFTO).

Sripal Reddy was selected during a two-day meeting of the AIFTO held on Sunday and Monday. He served as a national vice-president during 2021-24. Speaking on the occasion, Sripal Reddy said all teachers would unite and fight against the Central government until it rolls back the unified pension scheme and restore the old pension scheme. He said appropriate changes should be made in the national education system and the teacher organisations would mount pressure on the Central government to allocate more funds for education.

Pingili Sripal Reddy, PRTU TS president

NCC cadets from State take part in Kerala Trek-I

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

NCC Directorate Andhra Pradesh and Telangana senior and junior wings cadets participated in the all-India trekking expedition, Kerala Trek-I at Kulamavu, Idukki district in Kerala.

A total of 504 cadets from NCC directorates of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry participated in the trekking held September 10 to 17. This was the 14th edition of Kerala trek I and first Kerala trek for girls. The eight-day trekking camp, organised by NCC Kerala Lakshadweep Directorate, was inaugurated by Brigadier A Ragesh, Deputy Director General Kerala and Lakshadweep Directorate.

Welcoming the cadets, trek director and Kottayam Group Commander Brigadier GVS Reddy spoke about the trek, personal safety, health and hygiene aspects. Cadets expressed their enthusiasm and curiosity in exploring the flora and fauna of Idukki district.

The changing weather and blood-sucking insects were few of the takeaways as they rub shoulders with fellow cadets exchanging their rich culture, tradition and bonhomie.

18 Kerala Battalion Commanding Officer Colonel Prashant Nair led the closing ceremony.

A total of 504 cadets from Maharashtra, Karnataka, AP, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry participated.

Continuation
from page 1

Gandhi sees spike in maternal, infant mortalities

According to reports, all of the mothers, who died immediately after giving birth, were from the districts. Similarly, in the same time frame, a total of 44 infants, one from Andhra Pradesh and the rest from Telangana, died at the MCH facility.

"Fourteen maternal deaths and 44 infant mortalities at one government facility in just a month is shocking and it is a clear indication that there is no supervision and availability of expertise. Till last year, we used to explain with medical documents, in front of senior health officials, even if there was one single death of a pregnant mother or an infant in a government hospital in Telangana. These signs are not good for the overall IMR and MMR levels of Telangana," senior gynecologists familiar with the developments said.

The recent general transfers, wherein 40 per cent of the staff in a government hospital was transferred to other State-run healthcare facilities, could also be a major reason for the spike in the maternal and infant mortality, health officials said. "MCH facilities are highly specialised facilities where critically ill children and mothers are admitted from across Telangana. You need highly trained healthcare personnel with proven track records. However, currently, at all major tertiary hospitals dedicated to mother and child care in Hyderabad, including Niloufer Hospital, such experienced staff have been transferred and replaced with inexperienced individuals," doctors said. Expressing shock over the developments at Gandhi Hospital, BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Wednesday took to X and demanded an immediate inquiry into the fatalities. "Telangana consciously and very meticulously worked to bring down infant and maternal mortality rates. Till 2023, we had the best IMR and MMR in Telangana since Independence. I demand that the Chief Secretary immediately investigate the matter and let the citizens know where the gross negligence happened," Rama Rao posted on X.

Now, worms in students' food...

During his visit to the school two months ago, Manakondur MLA Dr Kavvampalli Satyanarayana had expressed anger at school authorities for the poor drainage and other issues. However, parents alleged that there was no change in their attitude. School principal Naveena claimed that there was no question of showing negligence in the preparation of food. Vegetables and rice would be washed properly before preparing food, she said.

BRS spearheaded Telangana's growth

According to the data, Telangana recorded 123.9 per cent of the national average in 2010-11, 177.4 per cent in 2020-21 and 193.6 per cent in 2023-24. In comparison, erstwhile AP recorded lower per capita income relative to the national average: from 89.9 per cent in 1960-61 to 100.9 per cent in 2000-01. Currently, AP has a relative per capita income of 131.6 per cent of the national average. However, under the BRS rule, the newly formed Telangana State emerged as a key player in India's economic growth. Among the top performers, Karnataka registered a per capita income of 180.7 per cent of the national average, followed by Haryana with 176.8 per cent, Tamil Nadu with 171.1 per cent and Gujarat with 160.7 per cent. Comparatively, Southern States have performed strongly in terms of relative per capita income since the 1990s. They had per capita incomes below the national average until the 1990s, but grew much faster after liberalisation, the report said.

In terms of share in the national GDP, the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh registered 7.7 per cent in 1960-61, which grew to 8.2 per cent in 2000-01. Telangana's contribution grew from 3.8 per cent in 2010-11 to 4.7 per cent in 2020-21 and 4.9 per cent in 2023-24. Alongside Andhra Pradesh, the two States now contribute 9.7 per cent to the national GDP. Individually, Telangana ranks sixth and AP seventh. Maharashtra consistently holds the top spot with a 13.3 per cent share. BRS working president KT Rama Rao said the PM's Economic Advisory Council testified to the tremendous growth of Telangana under BRS rule. He said it registered a per capita income of 94 per cent higher than the national average in just 9.5 years, crediting the KCR government for the State's rapid progress. "Numbers never lie, and KCR's achievements can never be erased, (sic)" he said.

Sanitation teams get down to business

Take up cleaning of procession routes and vicinities of various water bodies

CITY BUREAU
HYDERABAD

As the Ganesh idol immersion with massive processions making their way to the water bodies concluded in the city, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) initiated the sanitation efforts on Wednesday.

The civic body deployed over 200 sanitation teams for cleaning the procession routes and the vicinities of various water bodies with one sanitation team being set up every 100 metres. The sanitation workers cleared waste and garbage from the immersion sites. GHMC Commissioner Amrapali Kata said steps were taken to get streets and roads cleaned and sanitized without delay to ensure there was no inconvenience to the citizens.

In a statement, the GHMC Commissioner said there were no untoward incidents during the idol immersion, and the whole event was held peacefully in the city. She thanked all the line departments that worked in coordination with the city police, HMDA, HMWSSB, the electricity department, and the traffic police.

On the second day also, the immersion process went off peacefully. The zonal commissioners were advised to focus on sanitation in areas where immersion was completed. Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi said idol immersion was held without any untoward incident due to the joint efforts of GHMC officials, sanitation workers, and staff, under the supervision of the GHMC Commissioner.

Ganesh idols head towards Hussain Sagar as the immersion continues for the second day on Wednesday. — Photos: Surya Sridhar

IMMERSION CONTINUES FOR SECOND DAY

HYDERABAD: The immersion of Ganesh idols in Hussain Sagar, which began on Tuesday, continued even on Wednesday, the second day, with over 1,000 idols still queued up at the water body waiting to be immersed. The process continued on NTR Marg and PVNR Marg sides, even as traffic curbs remained in force on the routes around the lake and vehicles were diverted to alternate routes at various points. Meanwhile, it being a working day, people heading to offices, workplaces, and schoolchildren were caught in traffic snarls on several key roads near Hussain Sagar and other parts of the city.

GHMC sanitation workers cleaning the area around Hussain Sagar on Wednesday. The civic body deployed over 200 teams to take up cleanliness operations.

Procession passed off peacefully: Anand

Hyderabad Police Commissioner C V Anand accompanied by senior officers inspect the immersion process at Hussain Sagar.

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Hyderabad Police Commissioner C V Anand said the final Ganesh idol immersion procession passed off peacefully and no major untoward incident was reported in the city on Wednesday.

He said the immersion process ended a bit earlier than the previous years and all the roads were opened for the traffic in the city. "By 10.30 am, we opened all the junctions and roads in the city for the traffic. Compared to previous year the process was completed three hours early," he said.

The Commissioner said they had planned to ensure the immersion process ended by 6 am or 7 am, but due to some reasons, it could not happen. "We will follow up with the organisers and ensure next time they fully cooperate with the police. Also, there were issues like vehicle breakdown, power cables hindering tall idols, etc," he said. Anand said around 1 lakh idols were immersed during the last 10 days and 15,000 on the final immersion day. He thanked the Khairatabad Ganesh Utsav Committee for their cooperation.

Police intensify search for Jani Master

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

The Cyberabad Police intensified its efforts to nab choreographer Shaik Jani alias Jani Master, who had allegedly sexually assaulted a woman assistant choreographer.

The victim had filed a complaint at the Raidurgam police station last week following which a case was registered against Jani Master. The case later on grounds of jurisdiction was transferred to Narsingi police station. The woman alleged that she had joined Jani Master and started working as an assistant choreographer and during film shootings she was sexually assaulted by him several times. She also alleged that Jani Master had threatened to kill her if she revealed it to anyone. The police had information that Jani Master had fled to some location in North India and a team was sent there to nab him.

Meanwhile, the police added different Sections of POCSO Act after the victim in her statement said she was sexually assaulted by Jani Master when she was a minor. The police had recorded the statement of the victim at Bharosa centre and based on it Sections of POCSO were invoked against him.

'Love jihad' alleged

On the other hand, Karate Kalyani, a local leader alleged it was a case of 'love jihad' and Jani Master had trapped the girl and was forcing her to convert to Islam.

Bharatiya Janata Party State Mahila Morcha president Shilpa Reddy too alleged that it was a case of 'love jihad' and that stringent action should be taken against the accused. She alleged that the choreographer trapped the 21-year-old woman as part of 'love jihad' and tortured her for five years. She claimed that Jani Master had a criminal history and was sentenced to six months imprisonment by a court in 2019 in a case of assault on a woman in a college in 2015.

Coming down on the State government for going slow on the case, Shilpa Reddy said there were allegations that some big names in film industry and ruling party leaders were involved in the case, hence the government was not taking serious steps to punish the guilty. As the Home Ministry was under Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, he had to tell the people of the State why the State government was trying to shield the accused, she said.

The choreographer reportedly fled to some place in North India and a police team was sent there to nab him

7 injured in blast at residential locality

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

At least seven persons were injured in a powerful explosion at a house in Kishanbagh of Bahadurpura on Wednesday afternoon. The condition of two of the injured persons was stated to be critical.

The explosion occurred at a house in the thickly populated Asadbaba Nagar locality of Kishanbagh around 4 pm. Due to the impact of the explosion, the asbestos-roofed house was extensively damaged and the shrapnel flew into the area and damaged the glass façade of the neighbouring buildings. The local police on hearing the blast rushed to the house and shifted the injured persons to a nearby private hospital. They were later shifted to Osmania General Hospital, where the condition of two of the injured persons including a child was critical. The local police learnt, the family was engaged in making small firecrackers and had stored some low-grade explosive material for the purpose.

The Clues team picked up the explosive material from the spot. The bomb detection and disposal squad also reached the spot along with senior police officials. The Bahadurpura police were investigating.

The family was engaged in making small firecrackers and had stored some low-grade explosive material

In Brief

HYDERABAD

Teenager murdered

A teenager was knifed to death at Musheerabad on Tuesday night. B Dheeraj (17), a resident of Musheerabad, was going on a bike when one Vijay picked up a quarrel with. Dheeraj left and informed his cousin Adi Ravi, who along with Dheeraj and Prasad, went to Vijay to sort out the issue. "Vijay during the discussion abused Dheeraj and stabbed him with a knife. He also attacked Ravi and Prasad," Musheerabad Inspector G Rambabu said.

HYDERABAD

Two feared drowned

Two persons were feared drowned in a pond at Medchal on Wednesday. According to the police, Nelson (35) and Deepu (29), both natives of West Bengal had gone for a swim at Komati Kunta pond at Arikelaguda village in Medchal on Wednesday afternoon. However, both were feared drowned in the pond. On receipt of the information, the police reached the spot and began efforts to retrieve the bodies. A case was registered.

HYDERABAD

Suicide bid by student

An intermediate first-year student sustained injuries when he jumped from a building of a residential school at Maheshwaram on Wednesday in a bid to end his life. According to the police, the boy returned to the school on Wednesday after a vacation. The teenager reportedly was not interested in continuing his education from the residential school but his parents forced him there. On Wednesday, the boy jumped from the first floor.

Big day tomorrow for IPS probationers

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

A total of 188 IPS probationers along with 19 foreign officers from Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives, and Mauritius will pass out of the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy on Friday during the Dikshant Parade.

Nityanand Rai, union Minister of State for Home Affairs, will be the chief guest for the function. There are 58 women among the 207 probationers, who underwent the training alongside their male counterparts.

The first phase of the 45-week training covered various topics including the newly introduced laws such Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam; investigation, criminology, and police management in India, attitudes, ethics and human rights, internal security and public order and forensics. The outdoor subjects covered physical fitness, weapon training and firing, Yoga, unarmed combat, field craft and tactics, and map reading. SVPNPA Director Amit Garg said the probationers would be with special agencies such as Grey Hounds for jungle survival module, ITBP for rock climbing, Central School of Weapons and Tactics of BSF for special training in advance weapons, attachment with Indian Army in Jammu and Kashmir, CRPF in LWE counter training, National Forensic Science University and IIM Ahmedabad.

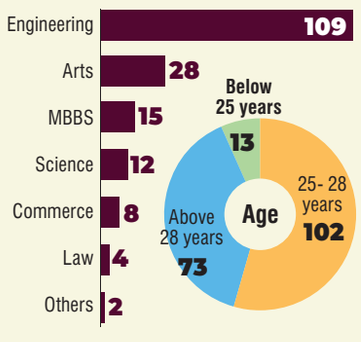
The probationers were trained in internal security challenges, threats from drones, cybercrimes, and security, drug trafficking, cryptocurrency, financial frauds, dark net, and AI and will now go for district practical training for 29 weeks before returning to the academy for the second phase of basic course training for nine weeks.

SVPNPA Director Amit Garg

IPS probationers are all smiles as they look forward to the Diskhant Parade to be held at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy.

New Beginning

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND OF IPS PROBATIONERS



TROPHY/ CUP WINNERS

- The IPS Association's Sword of Honour for the Best Outdoor Probationer: **Vishwajeet Souryan**
- The Tonk Cup for Equitation: **Ayush Yadav**
- The National Forensic Science University Trophy for Police Science: **Achyuth Ashok**
- National Crime Records Bureau Trophy for Computer Studies: **Faisal Khan**
- The Manipur Cup for Law: **Sonali Mishra**
- The BSF Trophy for Proficiency in Outdoor Subjects: **Lt Kinga Tshering**
- Director SVPNPA Trophy for Best Lady Probationer in Outdoor Training: **Lt Phuntsho Om**
- Director's Trophy for Best Foreign Officer Trainee in Phase I: **Lt Phuntsho Om**

Aarogya Mitras on indefinite strike

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Nearly 1,000 Aarogya Mitras, the primary contact of Aarogyasri beneficiaries in empanelled hospitals, launched an indefinite boycott of duties demanding redressal of their grievances on Wednesday. Under the umbrella of Telangana United Medical and Health Employees Union, they boycotted duties. The primary demand was shifting them to Data Processing Officer cadre and implementing monthly salary of Rs 22,750. The members were also demanding removal of outsourcing agencies and direct payment of their salaries through Aarogyasri Health Trust and hike their salaries to Rs 35,000 in upcoming PRC, according to Bhupal, president, Telangana United Medical and Health Employees Union.

New building for Safilguda railway station

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

The new building of Safilguda railway station was inaugurated by Malkajgiri MP Eatala Rajender on Wednesday. Rajender said Safilguda railway station was one of the important stations in the twin cities serving a large number of people. The new building would benefit passengers in the area. He also purchased the first train ticket from the booking counter and interacted with the staff. Malkajgiri MLA Marri Rajshekar Reddy thanked the railways for passenger amenities at the station.

THE ENGLISH AND FOREIGN LANGUAGES UNIVERSITY
(A Central University)
HYDERABAD – 500 007
TENDER NOTICE
1. Tenders are invited for providing and fixing of WPC Doors and Chokhats to the Rooms at the Basheer Hostel in the EFL University, Hyderabad Campus.
2. The period of completion of the above work is 10 days from the date of commencement subject to the terms and conditions.
3. Eligible bidders can visit the University website **www.efluniversity.ac.in** for detailed information on Notice Inviting Tenders (NIT) and other terms and conditions.
4. The Estimated Cost Put to Tender of the work is **Rs.6,70,090.00**
5. Tenders from competitive bidders shall reach the University by 3:00 p.m. on or before **25/09/2024**
Sd/-
REGISTRAR I/c

VISVESVARAYA COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY
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(Approved by Govt. of T.S. & AICTE, New Delhi & Affiliated to JNTUH. Hyd.)
COLLEGE CODE:VCET
Ph.No.08414-252392/9502090713/9963418087 Website: www.vcethyd.ac.in
ADMISSION NOTIFICATION FOR B-CATEGORY (30%) SEATS
Applications are invited for Admissions into 1st YEAR MBA and M.Tech Courses under Management quota(Category 'B') for the Academic Year 2024-25

COURSE	TOTAL INTAKE	B Category (30%)
M B A	162	49
M.Tech CSE	30	09
M.Tech ES	30	09

Prescribed application Form is available at website www.vcethyd.ac.in or can be obtained from our College Office and filled in application form along with true copies of certificates must be submitted in College **on or before 28.09.2024.** Admissions are made as per the guidelines of TCHE, Hyderabad.
Date:19.09.2024 PRINCIPAL

Infant's death sparks row, kin alleges negligence by hospital

STATE BUREAU
Sangareddy

The death of a 45-day-old boy is turning into a major controversy after his parents lodged a complaint with the Sangareddy police against the management of a private hospital here.

Following the complaint, the District Medical and Health officials are preparing to exhume the body on Thursday. The parents alleged that the doctors of Shishu Raksha Hospital literally enacted a scene in real life from Chiranjeevi starrer *Tagore*, in which a dead man was treated so that the hospital could collect the bill. Chilpishetti Prabulingam (26), the father of the boy, Dhashwik, said he admitted his son to the hospital on September 5 as he fell ill. Stating that Dashwik was diagnosed with dengue, the hospital treated him till September 8.

The doctors told the parents that the baby's platelet count had come down. Prabulingam said the hospital staff did not allow him to see the boy from September 7 evening stating that his condition was critical. On September 8, the doctors told him to rush the boy to Niloufer Hospital as his condition worsened. The hospital arranged its own ambulance, but the parents were not allowed to even touch the baby, Prabulingam said, adding that the technician in the ambulance held the baby until they reached Niloufer Hospital. When they reached the hospital, the baby was not breathing, he said.

Niloufer Hospital doctors tried to revive the child, but in vain. Prabulingam was shocked when the doctors at Niloufer told him that the child appeared to have died three-four hours ago. He said the hospital management had made him pay all the bills (Rs 1.30 lakh) before allowing him to take the child to Hyderabad. He had to pledge a gold chain to borrow Rs 2 lakh to pay the bills. In a state of depression, they buried the child without even getting the postmortem done.

However, Deputy District Health and Medical Officer Dr Sunanda visited Prabulingam's residence on September 10 to enquire into the incident. Dr Sunanda found that the doctors had treated the baby before confirming it as dengue. Hours later, DM&HO Dr Gayathri Devi inspected the hospital and seized the lab.

On September 13, Prabulingam lodged a complaint against Shishu Raksha Hospital accusing them of negligence. The police registered an FIR . Interestingly, all this happened in Health Minister Damodara Rajanarasimha's district.

Vattem pumphouse still under water

Four units submerged due to runoff from chain tanks

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

The Vattem pumphouse of the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme (PRLIS) remains submerged more than a fortnight after floodwaters inundated the facility.

The pumphouse, located in Bijinapally mandal, saw four of its mega pumping units submerge due to runoff from nearby chain tanks. The flooding incident has raised serious concerns about the safety and functionality of the PRLIS infrastructure.

The flooding incident has raised serious concerns about the safety and functionality of the PRLIS infrastructure.

The underground pumphouse, which is 25 metres deep, experienced flooding through an adit tunnel, a horizontal passage typically used for ventilation and drainage. The exact cause of the floodwater's entry through the tunnel is under investigation. Officials stated that it is impossible to assess the full extent of the damage without dewatering the pumphouse completely. Large motors have been deployed to drain the water, a process expected to take about two weeks. However, continuous seepage has hampered efforts, necessitating round-the-clock operations.

Advisor to government on lift irrigation projects K Penta Reddy mentioned that large capacity pumps have been recommended, but space constraints in the underground pumphouse pose a significant challenge. The seepage issue has resulted in the water being refilled almost as quickly as it is drained, complicating the dewatering process. The floodwaters, originating from the Sripuram, Nagarkurnool and Naganulu irrigation tanks have filled the pumphouse and surrounding structures to the brim. The groundwater table has also been fully recharged due to heavy rains and flooding in River Krishna.

Of the ten pumps planned for installation near the Vattem pumphouse, four have been completed, while construction on the remaining six has been temporarily halted. The 20-km underground tunnel, its surge pool, and the pumphouse are all submerged. In a related incident, the Bhakta Ramdas pumphouse at Palair reservoir, which lifts water from NSP left canal to irrigate over 60,000 acres under SRSP Stage - II ayacut, has also been submerged. Restoration works for both pumphouses are awaited.

Coming down heavily on Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for neglecting his immediate duties while focusing on other pursuits, BRS working president KT Rama Rao said on X that the Vattem pumphouse was submerged on September 3, with flood waters inundating the Bahubali motors. Despite the urgency of the situation, only one metre of water has been drained so far, leaving 18 more metres to be dewatered immediately.

"While CM Revanth Reddy is busy discovering and rediscovering the origins of computers and boarding flights to appease Delhi bosses, someone should remind this 'Palamuru Bidda' that he was vastly ignoring his duties!" he said, also questioning the CM's commitment to Telangana and its farmers.

"Mr Chief Minister, please answer as to why you are hellbent on destroying everything that is important to Telangana and its farmers?"

In Brief

HYDERABAD

Union Bank of India holds walkathon

Union Bank of India conducted a vigilance awareness week 2024 and a walkathon on Wednesday at Osmania University on the theme 'Culture of integrity for nation's prosperity'. The walkathon was aimed at spreading awareness about the importance of vigilance, integrity and combating corruption at all levels in society. The bank's Chief Vigilance Officer Ajay Kumar Singh participated in the walkathon and emphasised the significance of the culture of integrity which fosters trust, accountability and sustainable development. The event was attended by Chief General Manager K Bhaskara Rao, General Manager Ajay Kumar and other senior officials.

Two women killed in road mishaps

HYDERABAD: Two women were killed in separate road mishaps in the city on Wednesday. In the first incident, a woman died after being run over by a truck carrying LPG cylinders, at Nacharam. Neeta (35), a resident of Amberpet, had gone to Nacharam to drop her son at school. "While returning on the scooter, a truck rammed the vehicle and she fell off and died on the spot," the Nacharam police said. The police booked the truck driver. At Medchal, a 50-year-old woman, G Ratnam, was run over by a truck after it hit the two-wheeler she was riding pillion with her husband.

'Rising With Kindness' youth meet begins today

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Heartfulness in collaboration with The Commonwealth announced its second edition of its 'Rising With Kindness' youth-centric summit to be held between September 19 and 22.

Prakash Reddy, MD, Telangana Tourism Development Corporation; Pullela Gopichand, badminton coach; and Dr Nivedita Shreyans, director Youth Programmes, Heartfulness Institute; said the three-day summit is being held by Heartfulness and The Commonwealth, UNCCD (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification), Telangana government, All India Council for Technical Education and Tropical Agro.

Registrations from over 10,000 students from across the country were received for the summit which will have the participation of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, Sushil Ram, Commonwealth Secretariat, Paula Padrino Vilela, UNCCD, Jennifer Larson, US Consul General, apart from filmmaker Shekhar Kapur, actor Tania Maniktala and singer Shibani Kashyap.

The summit is intended to help students cultivate compassion and promote peace.

Workshop on mapping, GIS

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

GeoMap Society is organising GEOTOP (Geo Teachers Orientation Programme) — a Workshop on 'Mapping & GIS' for all social studies teachers of schools from 9 am to 1 pm at the Centre for Economic and Social Studies in Begumpet on September 28.

This is a pre-cursor to the 'GeoMap Quiz' to be held at Hyderabad in November-December for schoolchildren of all age groups. There is no fee for participation but registration with details of school name and teacher's name should be sent by email to geomapsociety@gmail.com or on WhatsApp on 98490-47827.

Ordinance on merger of 51 GPs challenged

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
Hyderabad

The Telangana High Court heard a writ petition that challenged an ordinance aimed at amending the Telangana Municipalities Act of 2019. The ordinance proposes the merger of 51 gram panchayats into their respective municipalities.

The case was brought before a division Bench led by Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice J Sreenivas Rao. The petition was filed by G Padmavathi and four others, all former sarpanches from villages in Shamshabad mandal of Ranga Reddy district. The petitioners argued that the ordinance was introduced without proper consultation or data collection from the affected villagers, alleging that the decision was motivated by interests in real estate development rather than community welfare.

Counsel for the petitioners V Sanjana, emphasised that the villagers were not informed about the proposal to merge their communities into municipalities. She stated that the respondents sought a report from villagers without their knowledge, characterising this move as an 'eyewash'. The petitioners contended that the supposed rationale for the merger — accelerated development — was a facade designed to serve the self-interests of developers. They highlighted that T Prakash Goud, local MLA from the Rajendranagar Assembly constituency, had also voiced opposition to the merger, asserting that it would not benefit the villages.

The petitioners criticized the process leading to the ordinance, claiming it lacked any consultative engagement with those most affected. The writ plea included allegations that a memo issued on July 26, which seeks to extend the jurisdiction of the GHMC up to the ORR, was beyond the legal authority of the respondents. The petitioners argued that the respondents' actions reflected ulterior motives, fundamentally undermining the interests of the villagers who stand to be impacted by the merger. After considering the contentions raised in the writ petition, the bench ordered notices to be issued to the respondents and scheduled the matter for further hearing.

Land acquisition challenged

Justice T Vinod Kumar of the High Court took on file a writ petition challenging the actions of the Special Deputy Collector and other officials regarding the alleged attempt to acquire land near the Nehru Zoological Park without following proper legal procedures. The petition was filed by Hamood Bin Hamza Al Jabri, who claimed that the authorities' actions were not only arbitrary but also illegal, violating the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, as well as the Right to Property guaranteed under the Indian Constitution.

Al Jabri contended that he owned the disputed land for approximately 38 years, supported by a valid sale deed. According to the petition, the authorities initiated steps to take over the land without serving any formal notice, which the petitioner argued undermined his rights as a property owner. He said about 15 years ago, the authorities acquired 100 square yards of his land for road expansion but failed to pay any compensation. After hearing the initial arguments, Justice Vinod Kumar directed the petitioner to submit relevant documents that support his claims and scheduled the case for further adjudication.

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HYDERABAD DANCE COMPANY
DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP FIRM
This is to inform that the Partnership Firm M/s. HYDERABAD DANCE COMPANY, having registered Office at 5-9-226 to 266/4/A, Chirag Ali Lane, Abids, Hyderabad, Telangana, vide Registration 1612 of 2015 is Registered under Section 63 (1) of the Indian Partnership Act, 1932 read with the Rules 1961 is dissolved the Firm.
Notice is hereby given that M/s. HYDERABAD DANCE COMPANY is dissolved with the effect from 18th September, 2024.
Sd/- For M/s. HYDERABAD DANCE COMPANY
Managing Partner
Hyderabad, Dated 18-09-2024.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is informed to the General Public, Public and Private Financial Institutions that my client Sri.Y.Nitin Kumar Reddy, R/o.Hyderabad, Public in General hereby informed that my client is intending to purchase Plot No's 63/2, and 63/Part in Sy.No. 47, total admeasuring an extent of 253 Sy.Yds, Situated at Bandlaguda Jagir, Rajendranagar, Ranga Reddy District,from Sri.Uddanganda Sudhakar Reddy. In this context the general public are hereby informed that if any body is having any objection they can present their bonafides to the undersigned within 7 days after the publication of this notice. If no objection is received within the stipulated time it will be deemed that there is no objection for purchase of subject plots and my client will proceed further on the said purchase.
Sd/-
M/s.B.ARAVIND REDDY
Advocates,
#6-3-596/78, Level -3,
Naveen Nagar, Lane.
Beside Axis Bank,
Road No.1, Banjara Hills,
Hyderabad.Ph: 9618836353

PUBLIC NOTICE
This General Public is hereby informed that my Client Mr. VALLAPARUPU SURESH, S/o. V.PEDDI RAJU, R/o. Flat No. 501, 5th Floor, NM Residency, Road No. 29, Neknampur, Puppalaguda, R.R. District, Telangana-500 089. My Client represents me that he has Lost the Original 1) Sale Deed Doc.No. 2642/2001, Dated on 22-05-2001, 2) Sale Deed Doc.No. 2643/2001, Dated on 22-05-2001, 3) Sale Deed Doc.No. 15996/2006, Dated on 27-07-2006, 4) AGPA Doc.No. 9361/2007, Dated on 29-09-2007, all are SRO Rajendranagar, R.R. District of Plot No. 34 In Sy.No. 340/4 Part, Admeasuring 200 Sq.yards and Plot No. 35 in Sy.No. 340/4 Part, Admeasuring 186 Sq.yards, Total Land Admeasuring 386 Sq.yards, situated at Apollo Town Ship Phase-I, Narsinghi Village, Narsinghi Municipality, Gandipet Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, Telangana State and in this regard he has lodged a Police Complaint. If anyone finds the aforesaid Original Sale Deed referred above the same may be returned to the undersigned and further the Public are hereby warned not to deal with any persons in respect of the above referred property without the Knowledge of my client and if any persons whomsoever have any claim over the above referred property possessing the Original Sale Deeds. That they may be lodged to the undersigned within 07 days from the date of this notice failing which, it shall be deemed that there are no claims or objections from any other person whomsoever.
G.MURALI MOHAN, Advocate
Flat No. G-06, Vivekananda Towers,
Opp. Kanaka Durga Temple,
Sumitra Nagar, Kukatpally, Hyderabad,
Telangana State,
9440196909, 9866196909.

CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I Cerisapala Jayalaxmi S/o, Kummari Nagabushan R/o 6-5-195/88, Markandeya Nagar, Kattedan I.e Rajendra Nagar Madal, Ranga Reddy District Telangana -500077. have changed my name to **Kummari Jayalaxmi** [TT-37884]

I, Saroja Vemula R/o 101,saichandra Apartment , 7-1-78,dk Road,ameerpet Hyderabad 500016 have changed my minor son's name from **Anirudh to Anirudh Sridutt Pant.** [TT-37894]

I, RADHIKA, is legally Wedded Wife of Service No. 14687195X, Rank: NK, Name: RAMPURE VYANKAT SOPAN, Unit: 14 CORPS ZONAL WKSP C/O. 56 APO, Residing at Vill: AURAD, PO: AURAD, Teh: OMERGA, Dist: OSMANABAD, State: MAHARASHTRA, Pin:413606, I have Changed my name from **RADHIKA to RADHIKA VYANKAT RAMPURE** my date of birth 20-05-1993, Affidavit Singed By advocate and Notary G Samuel Bsc LLB [TT-12490]

I, SOPAN is legally dependent Father of Service No. 14687195X, Rank: NK, Name: RAMPURE VYANKAT SOPAN, Unit: 14 CORPS ZONAL WKSP C/O. 56 APO, Residing at Vill: AURAD, PO: AURAD, Teh: OMERGA, Dist: OSMANABAD, State: MAHARASHTRA, Pin:413606,I have Changed my name from **SOPAN to SOPAN PANDURANG RAMPURE** My Date of Birth is 01-01-1950, Affidavit Singed By advocate and Notary G Samuel Bsc LLB. [TT-12490]

I, BHARATABAI is legally dependent Mother of Service No. 14687195X, Rank: NK, Name: RAMPURE VYANKAT SOPAN, Unit: 14 CORPS ZONAL WKSP C/O. 56 APO, Residing at Vill: AURAD, PO: AURAD, Teh: OMERGA, Dist: OSMANABAD, State: MAHARASHTRA, Pin:413606,I have Changed my name from **BHARATABAI to BHARATABAI SOPAN RAMPURE** My Date of Birth 01-01-1948, Affidavit Singed By advocate and Noatry G Samuel Bsc LLB. [TT-12490]

I, Service No. 14687195X, Rank: NK, **Name: RAMPURE VYANKAT SOPAN,** S/o. SOPAN PANDURANG RAMPURE Unit: 14 CORPS ZONAL WKSP C/O. 56 APO, Residing at Vill: AURAD, PO: AURAD, Teh: OMERGA, Dist: OSMANABAD, State: MAHARASHTRA, Pin:413606,Changed my Son Name from **PRAJWAL to PRAJWAL VYANKAT RAMPURE** my Son date of birth is 22-03-2014 Affidavit Singed By advocate and Notary G Samuel Bsc LLB. [TT-12490]

I, BAGRECHA PINKY DEVI, W/o. MAHAVEER KUMAR JAIN, R/o.H.No.5-3-983, Flat No.301, Surabhi Samatha Complex, Seena Bakery Lane, Shankarbagh, Osmangunj, Hyderabad-500095, Telangana. Changed my name as **PINKY DEVI MAHAVEER KUMAR BAGRECHA** [TT-11214]

I, BAGRECHA MAHAVEER KUMAR, S/o. NARESH KUMAR BAGRECHA, R/o.H.No.5-3-983, Flat No.301, Surabhi Samatha Complex, Seena Bakery Lane, Shankarbagh, Osmangunj, Hyderabad-500095,Telangana. Changed my name as **MAHAVEER KUMAR JAIN** [TT-11214]

I MANISH ANAND S/o MAHESH KUMAR R/o Rajapushpa Atria J 207 Golden Mile Road Kokapet K V Rangareddy Telangana-500075 changed my minor Daughter's name from **ARYAHI ANAND to ARYEHEE AANANDA aged 7 Years.** [TT-333137]

I ISHANI BISWAS D/o. AMALES BISWAS R/O 3-3-112/PGRC 208 Sreemalle Nagar Colony Rajendranagar K V Rangareddy Telangana-500048 changed my name to **ISSHHANI BBISWAS.** [TT-333137]

I CHAND PASHA S/o. MOHAMMED BAKAR R/o. HNo. 9-4-29/13/A/8/1. TOLICHOWKI HAKEEMPET GOLCONDA HYDERABAD 500008 Changed My Name As **MOHAMMED CHAND PASHA** [TT-8115]

I, VENKAT REDDY KUMBAM R/o. 2-37, Metichandapuram, marriguda mandalam, indurthy, Nalgonda,TS -508245 Have changed My Name to **VENKAT REDDY KUMBHAM** for all purposes [TT-8115]

I, BHAGAVATHI KUMBAM R/o. 2-37, Metichandapuram, Marriguda Mandalam, indurthy, Nalgonda, TS -508245 Have changed My Name to **BHAGAVATHI KUMBHAM** for all purposes [TT-8115]

I, ANIL KUMAR MADIREDDY R/o. 6-3-609/31, Anand Nagar Colony, khairatabad, Hyderabad TS -500004 Have changed My Name to **ANIL KUMAR MADHIREDDY** for all purposes [TT-8115]

I, VENKATA SATYA SRIYA IVATURI R/o.Villa No 63,Aakriti ARV Viva, Osman Nagar Road, Opp Vision Urjith, Tellapur, Sangareddy- 502032 Have changed My Name to **SRIYA IVATURI for all purposes.** [TT-8115]

I, KURATI MALLESH R/o. H NO 00 DAMMAKKAPALLI KONDAPAK Medak - 502372 TS. Changed My Name As **KURATI SHIVAMALU** S/o. KURATI MALLAIAH [TT-8116]

I, KANDI SREEMAN S/o. KANDI GOVINDA REDDY, R/o. 37-93/22/1/A, P.No.105/1, Madhura Nagar 2, Neredmet X Roads, RCK -Medchal, TS. changed my name as **KANDI SREEMAN REDDY** S/o. KANDI GOVINDA REDDY. [TT-8116]

I, MOHAMMED ARBAZ SALEEM R/o. 18-2-888/10/57, A.N.REDDY NAGAR, GM CHOWNI, KANDIKAL GATE, HYD.TS Changed My Name As **MOHAMMED ARBAAZ SALEEM** S/o. MOHAMMED SALEEM [TT-8116]

I, MIRZA IBRAHIMULLA BAIG R/o. 9-4-29/182, HAKEEMPET, TOLICHOWKI, GOLCONDA, HYD-8.TS. Changed My Name As **MIRZA IBRAHIM BAIG** [TT-8116]

I, ANNESUNNISA AFREEN R/O. 9-4-29/182, HAKEEMPET, TOLICHOWKI, GOLCONDA, HYD-8.TS Changed My Name As **ANEES UNNISA AFREEN** W/o. MIRZA IBRAHIM BAIG [TT-8116]

I, RAJINI KUMARI VADLA W/o. MADANA MOHNA CHARI VADLA, R/o.FNo.303, GHARONDA RAJARAM APTS, Narayanguda Hyd TS - 500029 have changed my name to **RAJANI KUMARI VADLA** for all future purposes. [TT-8116]

I, MADAN MOHAN CHARI VADLA S/o. VEERA CHARI VADLA, R/o.FNo. 303, GHARONDA RAJARAM APTS, Narayanguda , Hyd TS - 500029 . changed my name to **MADANA MOHNA CHARI** VADLA for all future purposes. [TT-8116]

I, SHAIK JAHANGIR R/o. P.No.70, SY.NO.8, GF, GHOUSE NAGAR, EWS Cly , BANDLAGUDA, Chandrayangutta Hyd, TS. Changed My Name **As MOHAMMED JAHANGIR** S/o. SHAIK AHMED [TT-8116]

I, RIZWANA BEGUM W/o. MOHAMMED TAHER, R/o. 7-2-184/B, 2 Floor Ashok Colony, Sanathnagar, HYD -18, TS. I have changed my Name as. **MUTAHER RIZWANA BEGUM.** [TT-8117]

I, SALAH BEGUM W/o MOHAMMED ISHAQ R/o. 8-1-284/OU/385, O.U. Colony, Shaikpet, Hyderabad, T.S. has Changed my name from **SALAH BEGUM to SALEHA BEGUM** for all purposes. [TT-8117]

I, *KHAIRUNNISA* (Old Name) W/o Mohammed Shareef R/o. H.no: 19-3-1089/C/19/A, Madina Colony, Bilal Masjid,Pension Office, Falaknuma, Hyderabad-500053.Has Changed My Name as ***KHAIR UNNISA BEGUM*** (New Name). (Husband name new) **Mohammed Ahmed Jani @ Mohammed Shareef.** [TT-8117]

I, AVADHANAM SIVARAMA SARMA S/o. A. VENKATA RAMAIAH, aged about 60 years, Occupation: Retd. Govt. Employee, R/o. Plot No. A25, Flat No. 301, Sri Sai Akshaya Apt Tower - 1, Simhapuri Colony, Behind Raitu Bidda Apt., VTC: Bowrampet, Dindigal Gandimaisammas Medchal-Malkajgiri - 500043, Telangana, India, Changed my wife name from **"AVADHANAM JAYA LAKSHMI TO VATTIPALLI JAYA LAKSHMI"** [TT-335816]

I Syeda khatija Hafeez W/o Mohd Naseer Uddin R/o. 5 - 3- 302/11, Police Quarters, Gosha Mahal, Hyderabad -12, has changed my name As **SYEDA KHATIJA** for all future purposes. [TT-8117]

I, Nikhath Unnisa imam Dawood R/o.H.no: 4-412, Plot No 61, Prem Nagar new hafeezpet, Hyd,T.S-49. Changed my name as **NIKHATH UNNISA BEGUM** W/o Shaik imam Dawood [TT-8117]

I, SYED SHAHED, S/O: SYED NASAR , R/o:51/P, Golden Heights Colony, Upperpally, Rajendra Nagar, Hyderguda, K V Ranga Reddy, TG-048, have changed my Father's name from SYED NASEER (as per my ssc certificate) To **SYED NASAR** (As per my father's Aadhar) vide Affidavit dt.18-09-2024 duly signed by P. Raveendranath, Adv & Notary [TT-8252]

I, SYED SHAHED, S/O: SYED NASAR , R/o:51/P, Golden Heights Colony, Upperpally, Rajendra Nagar, Hyderguda, K V Ranga Reddy, TG-048, have changed my Mother's name from **NAUREEN BEGUM** (as per my ssc certificate) To **NAUREEN BANU** (As per my Mother's Aadhar) vide **Affidavit dt.18-09-2024 duly** signed by P.Raveendranath, Adv & Notary [TT-8252]

LOST

I, Ashok kumar reddy, S/o Sankar reddy,R/O #407 & 408 6th phase KPHB colony,I have lost my passport No :W3825225, was lost in bike from KPHB 6th phase if any body found call**: 9666293333** [TT-11464]

I Lingala Dinakar Raj Kenny Winston, S/o lingala arogyam dinakar raj ,R/o.H No:1-9-18/6/2, Ramnagar,Hyderabad telangana 500020, changed my name to **Lingala Dinakar Kenny Winston .** [TT-8115]

I, PUNNA VENKATESHAM S/o. BIXAPATHI, Ex-CPL-785184, R/o Flat No. 113, SS Residency, Hayathnagar, R.R. Dist.,T.S.Has Lost My Original Service Book and Discharge Book (Retirement Book Service No. CPL-785184..If Anyone found please cont **8374423014.** [TT-8115]

I, GUNDLAPALLY DEVENDER GOUD S/o. GUNDLAPALLY RAJAIAH R/o. 4-64/27, POKALWADA, Manikonda, Ranga Reddy Dist-89 TS, I have Lost My Original passport No. M6121706, ISSUE DATE-12/02/2015 At HYD, While Travelling attend From My Friend Office Film Nagar to Manikonda if anybody Found Please Contact- **9849125827** [TT-8117]

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In Brief

MEDAK
Statue vandalised

Unidentified miscreants vandalised a statue of Dr BR Ambedkar at Konthanpally in Shivvampet mandal on Tuesday night. After coming to know about the incident, Dalit organisations staged a protest demanding action against the miscreants. They also filed a complaint in the police station.

HYDERABAD
TG stall at global meet

Telangana Stall at the 4th Global REINVEST held in Gujarat attracted over 300 national and international investors, officials said. Key companies in solar, wind and bio-energy such as Suzlon, ReNew Solar, Jindal India, Amar Raja, Green Energy, and Avaada along with financial institutions like ADB showed interest in the opportunities offered by Telangana's renewable energy sector. EU Energy Climate Action and Environment Counselor visited the stall and assured cooperation for projects in the State.

KOTHAGUDEM
Chief priest suspended

Bhadrachalam Sri Seetha Ramachandra Swamy Devasthanam chief priest Podicheti Seetharamanuja Charyulu, against whom an FIR was registered at Tadepalligudem town police station in Andhra Pradesh, has been suspended.

Temple Executive Officer L Rama Devi said in view of the case filed against the priest and his adopted son Tirumala Venkata Seetharam in August by his daughter-in-law, both were suspended following directions from the Endowments Commissioner on Wednesday.

Bhadradri for legal action over 'name'

Temple authorities accuse US-based body of misusing its name

JAMES EDWIN
KOTHAGUDEM

The Bhadrachalam Sri Seetha Ramachandra Swamy Devasthanam has accused temple authorities of an upcoming Lord Rama temple in the United States of misusing the Bhadradri temple's name.

The authorities are now mulling legal recourse to prevent the temple's name from being misused in the wake of a US-based organisation collecting donations using the Bhadradri temple's name. The temple officials are reportedly planning to apply for a patent for the temple's name. But according to legal experts, patent laws do not protect a name or a title.

It was said that the upcoming 'Bhadradri Sri Rama Temple of USA' at Cumming, Georgia, for which priest Archakam Padmanabha Acharyulu acts as a chairman undertook a Khagola Yatra (Bhoomandala Pradakshina) and was performing 'shanti poojas' across the globe. He was slated to perform 'kalyanam' at Bhadrachalam on September 17.

Bhadradri temple Executive Officer L Rama Devi told the media that using the Bhadradri Sri Rama name by any other organisation was improper and that the Bhadrachalam Sri Seetha Ramachandra Swamy Devasthanam had no connection with the US temple.

A complaint has been lodged with Endowments Department, said Bhadradri temple EO L Rama Devi.

Donations were collected for the yatra and for the construction of temple in the US. A complaint with regard to the US temple's activities was lodged with the Endowments Department and legal action would be initiated against its organisers. The issue came to notice when the organisers called on her to invite her to the 'kalyanam', she said.

Bhadradri temple authorities also issued show cause notices to chief priest Podicheti Seetharamanuja Charyulu and a priest Seetharam for taking part in the 'kalyanam' at Bhadrachalam on Tuesday.

On the other hand, Bhadradri Sri Rama Temple of USA chief priest Padmanabhacharyulu, speaking to the media at Bhadrachalam on Wednesday, denied allegations that they were building a temple in the US by collecting donations in the name of Bhadradri. Many people across the country had built many shops, temples and many organisations in the name of Bhadradri and the US-based organisation was also building a temple in that name with good intentions only, he said, adding that since they started building the temple, with the permission of the Bhadradri Temple authorities, poojas were performed at Bhadrachalam and idols were taken for installation in the temple in the US.

Bhadradri temple authorities, who did not raise any objection in the last nine years, were now wrongfully accusing the US organisation of collecting donations in the name of the Bhadrachalam temple, he said, also pointing out that the Bhadradri temple authorities had not taken any patent rights in Bhadradri's name or on the photos of the 'Moolavarlu' (deities). The names of the temple in the US and at Bhadrachalam were different, he added.

Conduct caste census now, BRS to govt

Warns of Statewide protests if Cong fails to meet its commitments to BCs by November 10

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

> **Only two Ministers in the State Cabinet belong to the BC community. This is insufficient, and more Ministerial positions must be given to BC leaders**
>
> — **KT RAMA RAO,** BRS working president

BRS working president KT Rama Rao demanded that the State government conduct a comprehensive caste census immediately and bring out a legislation to ensure 42 per cent reservation for Backward Classes (BCs) in local body elections, as promised by the Congress. He warned of Statewide protests if the Congress government failed to meet its commitments to BCs by November 10.

Rama Rao along with Leader of Opposition in the Council S Madhusudhana Chari chaired a three-and-half hour meeting with BRS BC leaders at Telangana Bhavan on Wednesday. The meeting, attended by the Telangana Sarpanch Association and Telangana MPTC District Association, focused on the Congress's failure to honour the promises made to weaker sections in the BC Declaration of Kamareddy, announced last November. He stressed that the BRS party would hold the Congress accountable for every promise made to the BC community.

"We do not need just rhetoric, action is required. If the government does not address these issues by November 10, we will launch a series of protests," he said, adding that an action plan would be announced in consultation with party chief K Chandrashekhar Rao.

The BRS working president also criticised the Congress for its budgetary allocation to BCs. He reminded that the Congress pledged to allocate Rs 1 lakh crore for BC welfare over five years, but allocated only Rs.8,000 crore in the current financial year. He demanded that at least Rs.25,000-30,000 crore should be earmarked for BC welfare in the upcoming budget. He demanded the immediate formation of a dedicated department for BCs and the appointment of a Minister for the most backward classes (MBCs).

"Only two Ministers in the State Cabinet belong to the BC community. This is insufficient, and more Ministerial positions must be given to BC leaders," he asserted.

Rama Rao also raised concerns about the plight of weaker sections, particularly the suicides of 22 weavers due to unfulfilled government orders, and the halt in the distribution of fishlings, which affected fishermen's livelihoods.

Reaffirming the BRS' commitment to BC rights, he said the party had consistently allocated more seats to BC candidates in the past elections than any other party. BRS had sent four BC members to the Rajya Sabha and appointed 27 BC leaders as corporation chairpersons out of 50 positions.

Rama Rao reminded that former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao conducted a comprehensive family survey in 24 hours. "If the government is sincere, conducting a caste census should not be difficult. The current government's inaction shows a lack of commitment," he said, adding that the BRS was ready to support the Congress government if the latter conducted the caste census. The BRS would form working groups with senior BC leaders to focus on specific challenges faced by weaker sections. The party members would also conduct field visits to assess the conditions.

Telangana unveils MSME policy

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday launched the Telangana MSME 2024 policy, for which the government has allocated Rs 600 crore over the next five years.

Unveiled at Shilpa Kala Vedika, the policy focuses on addressing six key areas: land acquisition, finance, raw materials, skilled labour, market access, and technology. The launch was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and Industries and IT Minister D. Sridhar Babu.

The MSME 2024 policy introduces 40 measures to support MSMEs through every phase of their growth. Notably, five out of 10 new industrial parks, planned between the Outer Ring Road and the proposed Regional Ring Road, will be exclusively for MSMEs. One park will be reserved for women-owned enterprises, and another for innovative start-ups. The policy also reserves five per cent of plots in new industrial parks for women and 15 per cent for SC/ST entrepreneurs, who will receive a 50 per cent subsidy on land costs.

To address financial barriers, the policy introduces a capital investment subsidy scheme where SC/ST entrepreneurs are eligible for a 50 per cent subsidy for manufacturing units, while other MSMEs will receive a 25 per cent subsidy. Women entrepreneurs will get an additional 20 per cent subsidy. Pilot programmes will also be introduced to allow MSMEs to access credit based on future sales. The policy emphasises technological advancement through the establishment of a Rs 100 crore Yantram Fund to support MSME adoption of new technologies. It mandates that 25 per cent of government procurement will be sourced from MSMEs to further stimulate growth.

Labour market reforms under the policy include the establishment of the Telangana Skilling University and the Digital Employment Exchange of Telangana (DEET), besides streamline labour compliance and provide flexible working hours. The MSME 2024 policy also supports Self-Help Groups (SHGs) transitioning into MSMEs and focuses on strengthening Telangana's role as a key exporter, with an emphasis on import substitution.

Irked Farmers Voice Concerns

Farmers who failed to get crop loan waiver staging protest at Meerudoddi Tehsil office in Siddipet district on Wednesday.

Water storage level at Mallanna Sagar touches 20 tmc

The Irrigation Department was pumping 6,500 cusecs of water as on Wednesday.

STATE BUREAU
Siddipet

The water storage level in the Mallanna Sagar reservoir has touched 20 tmc for the first time in its history since it was opened in February 2022.

The storage capacity of the project is 50 tmc. The Irrigation Department was pumping 6,500 cusecs of water as on Wednesday. During the ongoing rainy season, irrigation officials pumped 17.20 tmc of water so far. However, 5.8 tmc of water was pumped into Kondapochamma Sagar from Mallanna Sagar during this year. The pumping will continue until September 20 when the water storage will reach 21 tmc.

Godavari water will be pumped from Mid-Manair to Annapurna reservoir and to Ranganayaka Sagar, from where the water will be pumped into Mallanna Sagar, the biggest reservoir in the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP). The water would be sufficient to meet the Vanakalam and Yasangi needs of the ayacut apart from meeting drinking water needs.

Former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao had built the reservoir to realise the dream of irrigating the fields of Siddipet with Godavari water.

'Centre must clarify plans on ONOE'

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

BRS working president KT Rama Rao called on the Centre to provide detailed information about its approach to the One Nation-One Election initiative. Stressing on the need for transparency regarding how the government plans to integrate the State Assembly and the Parliament polls, he said the BRS would formulate its official stance only after the Centre clarifies its plans.

"The union government must present a clear plan for One Nation-One Election to the public. It is crucial that citizens understand how these elections will be conducted," he stated, in response to the union Cabinet's decision on the One Nation-One Election proposal.

With nearly four years remaining before the next parliamentary elections, Rama Rao asked the Centre whether the current State governments would be dissolved prematurely to synchronise the State and the national elections or whether it would be implemented in a phased manner. He also emphasised the need for wide consultations addressing numerous other issues, before moving forward with the proposal.

> KTR stresses wide consultations addressing other issues, before moving forward with the proposal

The BRS working president pointed out that alongside discussions on this initiative, the country needed to undertake a comprehensive census and delimitation of both parliamentary and assembly seats as per the constitutional mandate. He also highlighted the need for immediate implementation of the already approved Women's Reservation Act in legislatures.

The BRS would hold internal discussions to decide its official position on the issue, he added.

New MSME policy proves growth under BRS, says KTR

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

BRS working president and former Industries Minister KT Rama Rao stated that the new MSME policy of the Congress government acknowledges the significant growth of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) under the BRS regime. He stated that the Congress government was now reaping benefits of the initiatives implemented by former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao.

In response to the new MSME policy launched on Wednesday, Rama Rao pointed out the strides made by MSMEs over the last decade, stating that the Congress government's own data confirmed the sector's growth under BRS rule.

He pointed to key statistics in the policy that demonstrate a growth rate of 11-15 per cent for MSMEs over the last ten years, along with a 115 per cent increase in investments due to the TS-iPASS industrial policy.

He said the rise in MSMEs' contribution to Telangana's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) by 10% and a 15% annual increase in the number of MSMEs were clear indicators of the sector's robust growth. Employment growth in the sector was equally impressive, with a 20% rise in job creation where 30% of which benefitted SC/ST women. The State also recorded the lowest number of MSME closures between 2020 and 2023. The MSME policy stood as a testament to the progress made under the BRS rule, he added.

Senior BRS MLA T Harish Rao also lauded the Chandrashekhar Rao government for driving unprecedented growth in MSME sector. "The Congress government is simply riding on the momentum built by BRS without contributing anything new," he stated. He emphasised the need for visionary governance in achieving such milestones, challenging the Congress government's attempts to claim credit for the BRS-led industrial progress.

Questions PM on high fuel prices

HYDERABAD: BRS working president KT Rama Rao raised concerns over the continuing high prices of petrol and diesel, despite a significant drop in global crude oil prices. He questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi as to why fuel prices were not reduced even as crude oil prices had fallen below $70 per barrel. "We are constantly told that fuel price hikes are linked to increases in crude oil prices. Now that crude oil prices have dropped below $70, why have not petrol and diesel prices been reduced? Have not the oil PSUs and private oil companies like Reliance, made enough profits at the public's expense?" Rama Rao asked. The BRS legislator reminded that reducing fuel prices would provide much-needed relief to the public and could also serve as a crucial measure to curb inflation.

Telangana Today
FOR LOCAL TO GLOBAL NEWS

"I have consistently opposed One Nation, One Election because it is a solution in search of a problem. It destroys federalism and compromises democracy

ASADUDDIN OWAISI
AIMIM chief

We face a Europe that is simultaneously flooding and burning. These are now an annual occurrence. The global reality of climate breakdown has moved into the everyday lives of Europeans

JANEZ LENARCIC
EU Crisis Management Commissioner

We remain very clear about the importance of all parties avoiding any steps that could further escalate the conflict that we are trying to resolve in Gaza, to [not] see it spread to other fronts"

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A theocrat's sermons on democracy

By bracketing India along with Gaza and Myanmar while commenting on the purported "suffering" of Muslims, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has demonstrated a shocking naivety and a delusional mindset. It is a cruel irony that the head of a theocratic and ultra-orthodox nation should be pontificating on the status of minorities in a democratic country with a robust Constitution that guarantees equal rights to citizens of all faiths. Khamenei's formulation that Muslims across the world constitute a single identity is a deeply problematic idea that has no basis in a modern and secular world. His comments are totally misinformed and unacceptable to India. He would be better advised to look inwards at the track record of his own country in the treatment of its minorities and women. The world recently witnessed Tehran's brutal oppression of nationwide protests by women fighting for their fundamental rights. Ironically, Khamenei's sermons on Indian Muslims came on the second death anniversary of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old Iranian woman, who died in police custody for "improper" clothing. Her death had sparked outrage in the country, with women leading anti-hijab protests. This is not the first time that Iran's Supreme Leader has commented on the condition of Indian Muslims. He had voiced concern over the abrogation of Article 370, ending special status to Jammu & Kashmir in 2019. The following year, Khamenei urged Indian authorities to "confront extremist Hindus" and "stop the massacre of Muslims" against the backdrop of the New Delhi riots.

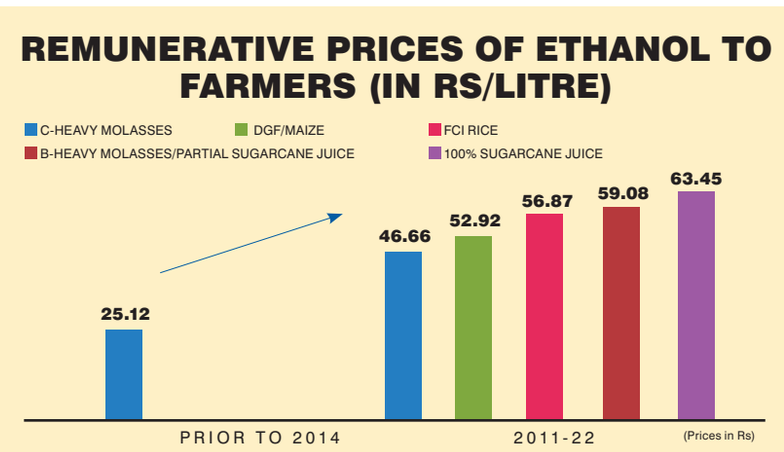
> Iran's Supreme Leader has demonstrated a shocking naivety and a delusional mindset

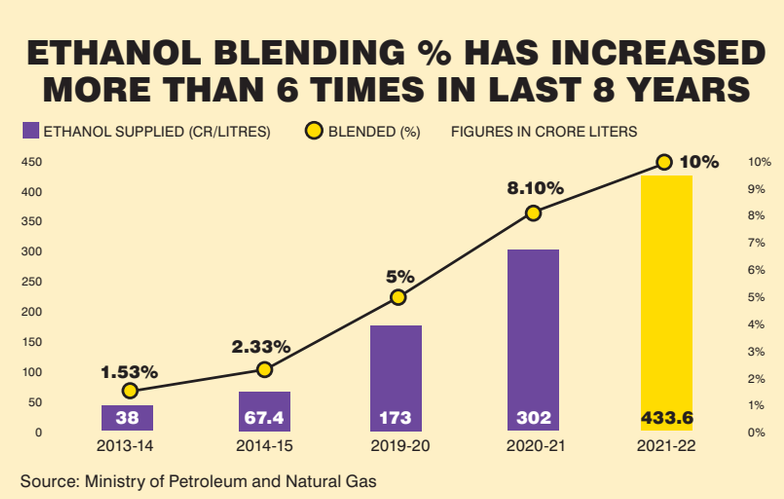
Earlier in 2017, in a speech on the occasion of Eid, he compared Kashmir to Bahrain and Yemen, asking the Muslim world to support people of these regions. These instances demonstrate a clear interference with India's internal affairs. The latest comments came just before the first phase of the J&K elections — a region with a large Shia population. The timing raises questions about Iran's intent to influence political sentiments in a region where it shares religious ties with the electorate. While these remarks may seem aligned with Iran's broader geopolitical strategy, the underlying intent appears to be deeper. Iran often seeks to strengthen its position in the Muslim world, particularly among Shia communities, to counterbalance Sunni-dominated powers like Saudi Arabia. However, it is highly unlikely that Khamenei's remarks will affect the larger India-Iran ties which have deepened over the years. As recently as in May, the two countries signed a long-term contract for the operation of the Shahid Beheshti Port terminal at Chabahar in Iran. This contract marks the first time India will take over the management of an overseas port. India and Iran have cultural relations dating back millennia. Both nations have shown pragmatism in maintaining relations even when diplomatic differences arise. Additionally, trade and connectivity define New Delhi's ties with Tehran. In 2022-23, India's bilateral trade with Iran reached $2.33 billion.

Can ethanol fuel the future?

A focused approach to energy conservation will help rather than a policy of self-reliance

RAHUL KUMAR BARUN KUMAR THAKUR





Source: Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

The Centre has approved a 20% ethanol blend with petrol to reduce the nation's reliance on crude oil imports and tackle environmental challenges. Ethanol produced from grains is priced at approximately Rs 60 per litre, which is cheaper than other traditional fuels and helpful in reducing the import dependency on oil products. A recent study from NITI Aayog predicted an annual savings of around Rs 30,000 crore if ethanol-based fuel is adopted.

Opportunities, Incentives

Increasing dependency on crude oil for industrial growth and associated growth trajectory can be tackled through alternatives like biofuel. This also helps reduce the problem of air pollution and eliminate the high oil import bill. India is uniquely positioned to supply grain-based ethanol to the domestic market due to excess availability of irrigated land, low labour cost, industrial development opportunity, area under maize cultivation among others.

The US and Brazil are global leaders in the ethanol market but they use different feedstocks. The US specialises in corn-based ethanol production while Brazil excels in sugarcane-based due to climate conditions. In contrast, India has both tropical and sub-tropical climates which are suitable for cultivating both sugarcane and corn. This diversity in climate allows for a steady supply of ethanol to meet domestic demand. Since a few countries are implementing a 10% ethanol blend strategy, India could become a significant player in the global ethanol market, provided there is strong support from government institutions and infrastructure development. Additionally, the growing automobile market and the expansion of light motor vehicles in India present a significant industrial opportunity for the States to become major ethanol producers.

The Centre has increased the MSP for maize which motivated farmers to shift from wheat to maize production. The government is also encouraging the automobile industry to manufacture more flexi-fuel vehicles to cater to the domestic market and compete with the global players. Due to the intervention of the Ethanol Blending Program, greenhouse gas emissions have declined by 32 million tonnes since 2014.

Some State governments such as Bihar have initiated several incentives since the beginning of the Ethanol Production Promotion Policy, 2021. These benefits include financial assistance, exemption on stamp duty and registration fees, land, interest subvention and tax incentive, employment cost subsidy, skill development subsidy and capital subsidy. Bihar is among the front-runners in producing ethanol and is ambitious to become the largest producer. However, given the low per capita income and dependence on traditional agricultural practices, it cannot afford to experiment with monoculture farming which may cause biodiversity loss, soil degradation and water pollution.

Environmental Challenges

Recent climate-related events in the country make it hard to remain optimistic about the government's ability to achieve its ambitious 20% blending target. Meeting this target hinges on the timely availability of feedstock but climate variations have reduced the yields of key crops like sugarcane, rice and maize. Even if the country produces enough ethanol to meet the 20% blending goal, it would require at least 10.16 billion litres of ethanol.

Simultaneously, other sectors, such as the alcohol and pharmaceutical industries, also need substantial amounts of ethanol. According to a NITI Aayog report, India needs around 13.6 billion litres of ethanol to satisfy overall demand. Independent researchers estimate that approximately 3% of the gross cropped area, or about 7.1 million hectares, needs to be dedicated to these crops. Additionally, more than 50% of maize is used by the feed industry, and future trends indicate that demand from the poultry and livestock sectors will exceed maize production.

> Recent climate-related events make it hard to remain optimistic about govt's ability to achieve its ambitious 20% blending target

Farmers are reducing the area under wheat and moving towards maize cultivation (Rabi) for higher produce and price realisation. This may increase the problem of food security and groundwater recharge. To meet the erratic demand for ethanol in the domestic market and earn more profit, farmers generally use more fertilizers to correct soil deficiencies. Excessive use of fertilizer and indiscriminate use of pesticides lead to a reduction in soil nutrient levels, degrade air quality and reduce the strength of natural predators of crop pests.

Lessons we can Learn

The shrinking of the perennial rivers and poor infrastructure are causing the over-extraction of groundwater for the production of crops such as paddy and maize. Since the environmental situation is becoming more vulnerable, the government should prioritise experience over hope. Professor Runge's work on "The case against more Ethanol" about blending corn-based ethanol in the US mentioned that higher ethanol blends produce significant levels of air pollution, reduce fuel efficiency, jack up corn and other food prices and damage engines.

Ethanol blending is constrained by the engine design which is technically called "blend wall". Most vehicles today have a limitation in engine design which permits up to 10% blending with gasoline and any upward movement leads to a loss of efficiency and more greenhouse gas emissions. India needs to learn lessons from Brazil and the US which have extensive experience in ethanol production to develop more sustainable and balanced policies for the agrarian States.

Moreover, the jump in ethanol production in the country has led to a rise in the price of feedstock. The government must safeguard its feedstock as well as food security by incentivising farmers through crop insurance subsidies and increased MSP for other competitive crops. It needs to invest more in research and development for second and third-generation technology to improve the productivity and efficiency of biofuels. Improved strategies on climate-smart and climate-resilient agriculture through more investment in research, extension and water management are needed than providing subsidies in food and fertilizers. A more focused approach to energy conservation rather than a policy of self-reliance will help reduce fuel price and also protect consumers from increasing food costs. Raising awareness about ethanol blending at fuel stations is crucial for protecting consumers' right to choose the right product.

(Rahul Kumar is Research Scholar at Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune. Dr Barun Kumar Thakur is Associate Professor, Department of Economics, FLAME University, Pune. Views are personal)

Letters to the Editor

Calculated strategy

Arvind Kejriwal's expected resignation, following his release on bail, signals a calculated political strategy rather than a simple consequence of legal proceedings. With Atishi taking over as Delhi's Chief Minister, the move allows Kejriwal to distance himself from governance amid the ongoing case. If Atishi leads the party to success in the next elections, it will be a win for AAP. However, if the party falters, the defeat will likely fall on her shoulders, sparing Kejriwal's legacy. This seems like a tactical shift, ensuring the Aam Aadmi Party remains resilient in the face of uncertainty.

NEEDHI GATTANI, Hyderabad

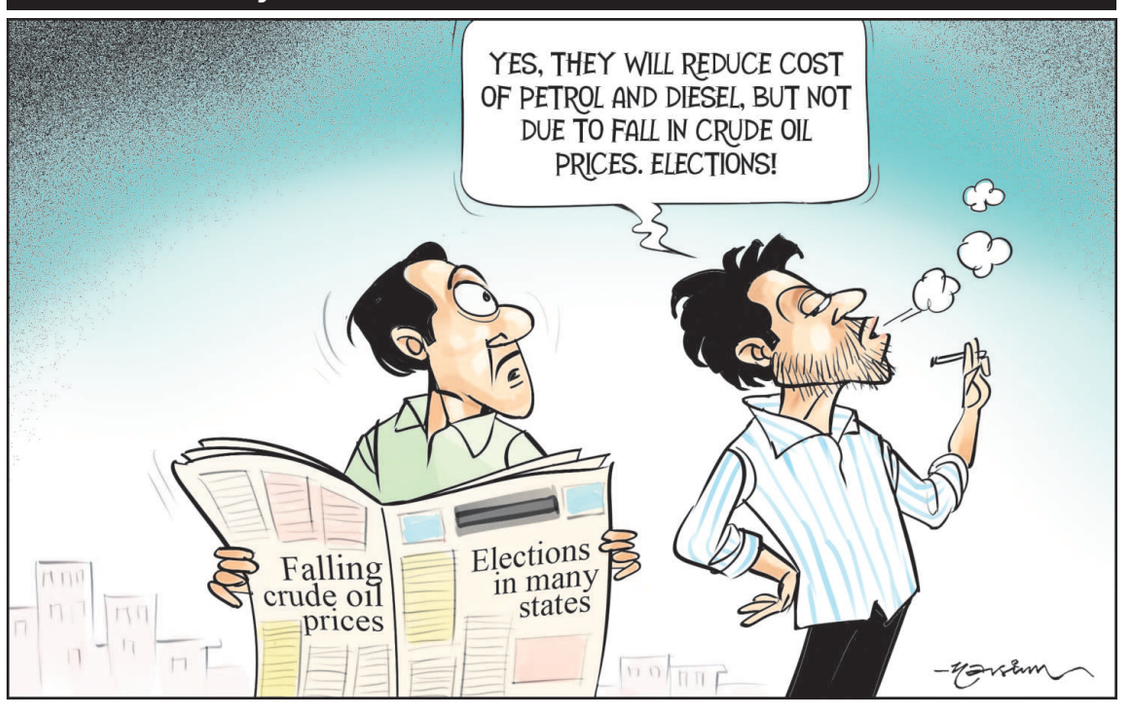
Life of products

Heavy surge in sales of electronic devices and the indefinite closure of giant chip companies during the lockdown had in fact given rise to a scarcity of semiconductors in the global market. These chips are in fact the 'life' of millions of products in our daily life. Insufficiency of these chips had slowed down the production of all these devices and machines. Though chip companies have increased production, it's not enough. Chip manufacturing in India will no doubt generate employment and also make the nation self-reliant.

M PRADYU, Kannur

Write to us at letters@telanganatoday.com

Cartoon Today



India in the hotspot

■ The Economis

Narendra Modi starts losing battles

For many Indians, the general election result was a stunning repudiation of Narendra Modi, prime minister. But to hear him speak of it, that isn't the case. He insists that despite the damning, the vote was for "continuity".

■ Dhaka Tribune

Interim govt unaware about Hasina

The interim government is unaware of the status of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in India. Moreover, Dhaka has not yet formally sought information from Delhi regarding her stay there.

■ Gulf News

Delhi's new chapter begins

Arvind Kejriwal announced his resignation as Chief Minister and named Atishi, the AAP minister, as his replacement. His proviso was that he would return once AAP won the elections again.

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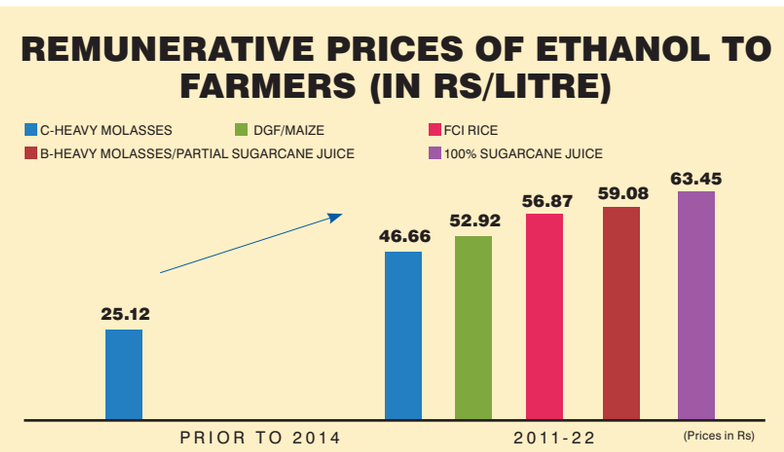
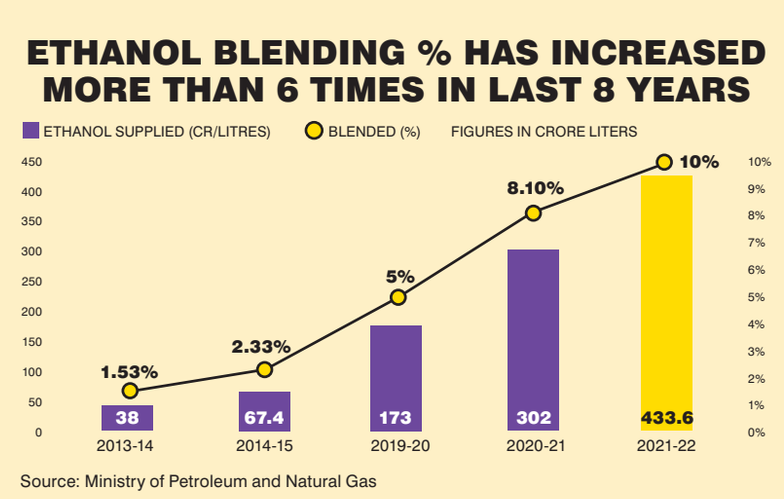
A focused approach to energy conservation will help rather than a policy of self-reliance

RAHUL KUMAR BARUN KUMAR THAKUR





Source: Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

The Centre has approved a 20% ethanol blend with petrol to reduce the nation's reliance on crude oil imports and tackle environmental challenges. Ethanol produced from grains is priced at approximately Rs 60 per litre, which is cheaper than other traditional fuels and helpful in reducing the import dependency on oil products. A recent study from NITI Aayog predicted an annual savings of around Rs 30,000 crore if ethanol-based fuel is adopted.

Opportunities, Incentives

Increasing dependency on crude oil for industrial growth and associated growth trajectory can be tackled through alternatives like biofuel. This also helps reduce the problem of air pollution and eliminate the high oil import bill. India is uniquely positioned to supply grain-based ethanol to the domestic market due to excess availability of irrigated land, low labour cost, industrial development opportunity, area under maize cultivation among others.

The US and Brazil are global leaders in the ethanol market but they use different feedstocks. The US specialises in corn-based ethanol production while Brazil excels in sugarcane-based due to climate conditions. In contrast, India has both tropical and sub-tropical climates which are suitable for cultivating both sugarcane and corn. This diversity in climate allows for a steady supply of ethanol to meet domestic demand. Since a few countries are implementing a 10% ethanol blend strategy, India could become a significant player in the global ethanol market, provided there is strong support from government institutions and infrastructure development. Additionally, the growing automobile market and the expansion of light motor vehicles in India present a significant industrial opportunity for the States to become major ethanol producers.

The Centre has increased the MSP for maize which motivated farmers to shift from wheat to maize production. The government is also encouraging the automobile industry to manufacture more flexi-fuel vehicles to cater to the domestic market and compete with the global players. Due to the intervention of the Ethanol Blending Program, greenhouse gas emissions have declined by 32 million tonnes since 2014.

Some State governments such as Bihar have initiated several incentives since the beginning of the Ethanol Production Promotion Policy, 2021. These benefits include financial assistance, exemption on stamp duty and registration fees, land, interest subvention and tax incentive, employment cost subsidy, skill development subsidy and capital subsidy. Bihar is among the front-runners in producing ethanol and is ambitious to become the largest producer. However, given the low per capita income and dependence on traditional agricultural practices, it cannot afford to experiment with monoculture farming which may cause biodiversity loss, soil degradation and water pollution.

Environmental Challenges

Recent climate-related events in the country make it hard to remain optimistic about the government's ability to achieve its ambitious 20% blending target. Meeting this target hinges on the timely availability of feedstock but climate variations have reduced the yields of key crops like sugarcane, rice and maize. Even if the country produces enough ethanol to meet the 20% blending goal, it would require at least 10.16 billion litres of ethanol.

Simultaneously, other sectors, such as the alcohol and pharmaceutical industries, also need substantial amounts of ethanol. According to a NITI Aayog report, India needs around 13.6 billion litres of ethanol to satisfy overall demand. Independent researchers estimate that approximately 3% of the gross cropped area, or about 7.1 million hectares, needs to be dedicated to these crops. Additionally, more than 50% of maize is used by the feed industry, and future trends indicate that demand from the poultry and livestock sectors will exceed maize production.

> Recent climate-related events make it hard to remain optimistic about govt's ability to achieve its ambitious 20% blending target

Farmers are reducing the area under wheat and moving towards maize cultivation (Rabi) for higher produce and price realisation. This may increase the problem of food security and groundwater recharge. To meet the erratic demand for ethanol in the domestic market and earn more profit, farmers generally use more fertilizers to correct soil deficiencies. Excessive use of fertilizer and indiscriminate use of pesticides lead to a reduction in soil nutrient levels, degrade air quality and reduce the strength of natural predators of crop pests.

Lessons we can Learn

The shrinking of the perennial rivers and poor infrastructure are causing the over-extraction of groundwater for the production of crops such as paddy and maize. Since the environmental situation is becoming more vulnerable, the government should prioritise experience over hope. Professor Runge's work on "The case against more Ethanol" about blending corn-based ethanol in the US mentioned that higher ethanol blends produce significant levels of air pollution, reduce fuel efficiency, jack up corn and other food prices and damage engines.

Ethanol blending is constrained by the engine design which is technically called "blend wall". Most vehicles today have a limitation in engine design which permits up to 10% blending with gasoline and any upward movement leads to a loss of efficiency and more greenhouse gas emissions. India needs to learn lessons from Brazil and the US which have extensive experience in ethanol production to develop more sustainable and balanced policies for the agrarian States.

Moreover, the jump in ethanol production in the country has led to a rise in the price of feedstock. The government must safeguard its feedstock as well as food security by incentivising farmers through crop insurance subsidies and increased MSP for other competitive crops. It needs to invest more in research and development for second and third-generation technology to improve the productivity and efficiency of biofuels. Improved strategies on climate-smart and climate-resilient agriculture through more investment in research, extension and water management are needed than providing subsidies in food and fertilizers. A more focused approach to energy conservation rather than a policy of self-reliance will help reduce fuel price and also protect consumers from increasing food costs. Raising awareness about ethanol blending at fuel stations is crucial for protecting consumers' right to choose the right product.

(Rahul Kumar is Research Scholar at Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune. Dr Barun Kumar Thakur is Associate Professor, Department of Economics, FLAME University, Pune. Views are personal)

Letters to the Editor

Calculated strategy

Arvind Kejriwal's expected resignation, following his release on bail, signals a calculated political strategy rather than a simple consequence of legal proceedings. With Atishi taking over as Delhi's Chief Minister, the move allows Kejriwal to distance himself from governance amid the ongoing case. If Atishi leads the party to success in the next elections, it will be a win for AAP. However, if the party falters, the defeat will likely fall on her shoulders, sparing Kejriwal's legacy. This seems like a tactical shift, ensuring the Aam Aadmi Party remains resilient in the face of uncertainty.

NEEDHI GATTANI, Hyderabad

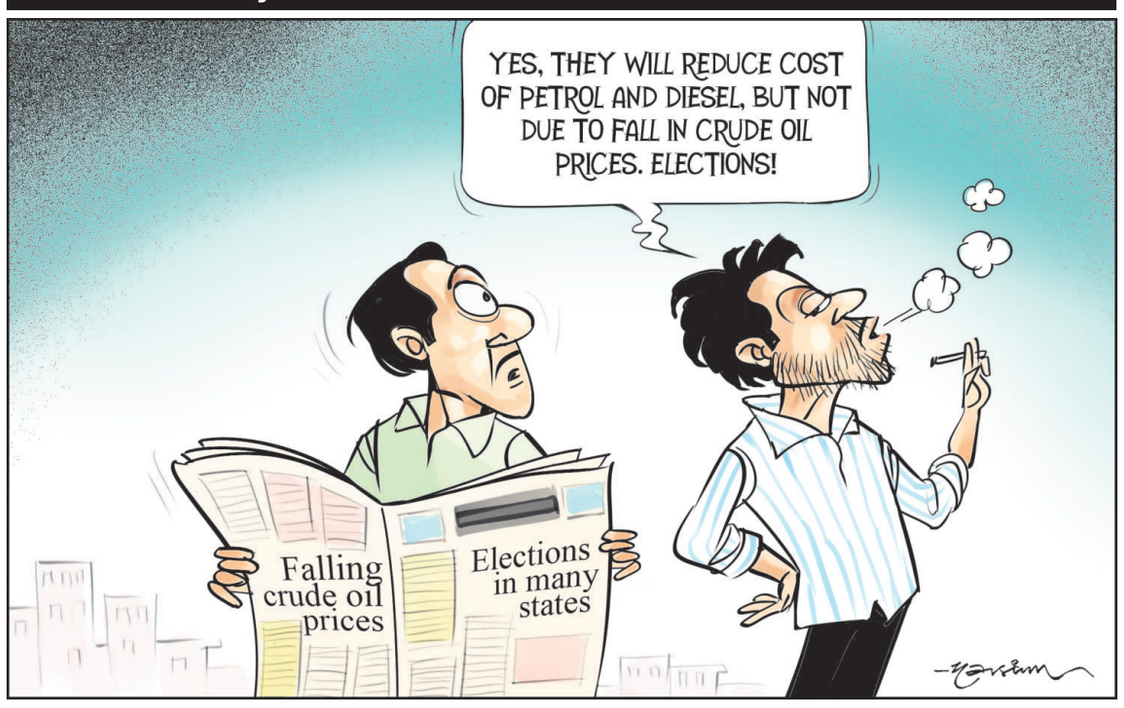
Life of products

Heavy surge in sales of electronic devices and the indefinite closure of giant chip companies during the lockdown had in fact given rise to a scarcity of semiconductors in the global market. These chips are in fact the 'life' of millions of products in our daily life. Insufficiency of these chips had slowed down the production of all these devices and machines. Though chip companies have increased production, it's not enough. Chip manufacturing in India will no doubt generate employment and also make the nation self-reliant.

M PRADYU, Kannur

Write to us at letters@telanganatoday.com

Cartoon Today



India in the hotspot

■ The Economis

Narendra Modi starts losing battles

For many Indians, the general election result was a stunning repudiation of Narendra Modi, prime minister. But to hear him speak of it, that isn't the case. He insists that despite the damning, the vote was for "continuity".

■ Dhaka Tribune

Interim govt unaware about Hasina

The interim government is unaware of the status of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in India. Moreover, Dhaka has not yet formally sought information from Delhi regarding her stay there.

■ Gulf News

Delhi's new chapter begins

Arvind Kejriwal announced his resignation as Chief Minister and named Atishi, the AAP minister, as his replacement. His proviso was that he would return once AAP won the elections again.

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Incident-free polling in J&K

About 59 per cent voter turnout reported in first phase

An elderly voter shows his finger marked with indelible ink after casting vote during the first phase of Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections, at Kakapora, in Pulwama district on Wednesday. — Photo: PTI

PTI
SRINAGAR/JAMMU

About 59 per cent of the electorate in Jammu and Kashmir turned out to vote till 5 pm on Tuesday, giving a thumbs up to the Union Territory's first Assembly election since 2019 with round one going off without incident.

Voting began at 7 am and proceeded steadily through the day. Men and women, the young and old, some too frail to walk and others patiently waiting their turn, queued up outside polling booths across Kashmir Valley and Jammu. Of the 90 seats, 24 are voting in the first phase -- 16 in the Kashmir Valley and eight in the Jammu region.

Over 2.3 million voters are eligible to vote to determine the fate of 219 candidates, including 90 Independents. At 9 am, two hours after polling began, the turnout was 11.11 per cent. At 1 pm, it was 26.72 per cent. At 3 pm, 50.65 per cent of the voters had turned up. And by 5 pm, an hour before polling was due to end, the number had inched up to 58.19 per cent. Encouraged by the sight of long lines of people waiting to exercise their franchise, officials hoped the turnout would be higher than the 60.19 per cent in 2014 when the last assembly elections were held.

The elections to the 90-member assembly are the first since Article 370 granting special status to Jammu and Kashmir was abrogated and the State was downgraded into the union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh, in August 2019. Security forces fanned out to ensure that there was no trouble. The day was largely without incident except for reports of clashes between political workers in some areas of Bijbehara and D H Pora. Officials said the highest voting percentage was recorded in Jammu region's Inderwal at 80.06 per cent, followed by Padder-Nagseni at 76.80 per cent and Kishtwar at 75.04 per cent.

Doda West also recorded a high turnout of 74.14 per cent during the period. In the Kashmir valley, the Pahalgam segment recorded the highest turnout of 67.86 per cent. It was followed by D H Pora at 65.21 per cent, Kulgam at 59.58, Kokernag at 58 per cent and Dooru at 57.90 per cent.

The lowest -- 40.58 per cent -- was recorded in the Tral segment, officials said, adding that the four constituencies in Pulwama district have not yet crossed the 50 per cent mark. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was among the several leaders encouraging voters to come out in large numbers and take part in the "festival of democracy". In a post on X, he particularly targeted young and first-time voters in his appeal.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah also appealed for a strong voter turnout to elect a government focused on youth education, employment, and women's empowerment while combating separatism. "Pehle matdan phir jalpan", he said in a post on X, asking people to vote before breakfast. He encouraged voters to prioritise casting their votes before meals.

Lt Governor Manoj Sinha also asked people, particularly youth and women, to exercise their democratic rights.

The next phases are on September 25 and October 1. The votes will be counted on October 8.

In Brief

NEW DELHI

Need to be ready: CDS

India's military preparedness must be of very high order and it should be ready to confront short and intense conflicts as well as long-duration wars, Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan said on Wednesday amid the dragging border row with China in eastern Ladakh. Gen Chauhan also identified operational preparedness, modernisation of the armed forces, transformation and indigenisation of military hardware as key pillars to boost national security. "In the most violent decade since World War II, there is a growing propensity amongst nations to use force to contain conflicts," he said. PTI

JAIPUR

Toddler falls into borewell

Two-and-a-half-year-old girl fell into a borewell in Rajasthan's Bandkui town in Dausa on Wednesday and is trapped at a depth of around 35 feet inside the pit, an official said. The administration has rushed to the spot and is making all attempts to save the girl.
An official said in a statement that the digging work has also been started using JCBs. He said that the rescue operation is facing challenges due to rain. The minor girl has been identified as Neeru who was playing inside a farm near her house when she fell into the borewell which was situated in one corner of the farm. IANS

Union Cabinet approves Chandrayaan-4 mission

Green signal for first unit of BAS by 2028

NEW DELHI

Expanding the Chandrayaan series, the Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the fourth mission to the Moon and also gave a green signal for the building of the first unit of the Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS) by 2028. The Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi approved Chandrayaan-4 to develop and demonstrate technologies to help astronauts return to Earth after successfully landing on the Moon.

The mission also aims to collect Moon samples, bring them back safely and analyse them on Earth. The Chandrayaan-4 mission will achieve the foundational technologies and capabilities eventually for an Indian landing on the Moon (planned by year 2040) and return safely back to Earth, according to a Cabinet Communique.

Major technologies that are required for docking/undocking, landing, safe return to Earth and also accomplishing lunar sample collection and analysis would be demonstrated, it added. Chandrayaan-3 successfully demonstrated the safe and soft landing of Lander on the tricky lunar surface. It established vital technologies and demonstrated capabilities that only a few other nations possess.

The ability to collect lunar samples and return them safely back to Earth remains the next challenge. The Chandrayaan-4 mission is planned for Rs 2,104.06 crore, and the development of the spacecraft.

The Cabinet said the cost includes spacecraft development and realisation, two launch vehicle missions of LVM3, external deep space network support and conducting special tests for design validation, finally leading to the mission of landing on the Moon's surface and safe return to Earth along with the collected lunar sample. IANS

PM-AASHA scheme for farmers to continue

NEW DELHI: The government has approved the continuation of the PM-AASHA scheme, with an outlay of Rs 35,000 crore, to provide better prices to farmers and also control price volatility of essential commodities for consumers. "The union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the continuation of schemes of Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) to provide remunerative prices to farmers and to control price volatility of essential commodities for consumers," an official statement said.

The total financial outgo will be Rs 35,000 crore during the 15th Finance Commission Cycle up to 2025-26, it added. The government has converged the Price Support Scheme (PSS) and Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) schemes in PM-AASHA to serve the farmers and consumers more efficiently.

"The Integrated scheme of PM-AASHA will bring in more effectiveness in the implementation which would not only help in providing remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce but also control the price volatility of essential commodities by ensuring their availability at affordable prices to consumers," the government said. PM-AASHA will now have the components of the Price Support Scheme (PSS), Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF), Price Deficit Payment Scheme (POPS) and Market Intervention Scheme (MIS). PM-AASHA is an umbrella scheme to farmers. PTI

NCoE for AVGC-XR approved

NEW DELHI: The Cabinet on Wednesday approved the establishment of the National Centre of Excellence (NCoE) for animation, visual effects, gaming, comics and extended reality (AVGC-XR) sector, as it aims to advance the creator's economy to ensure economic growth. The NCoE will be set up in Mumbai.

The Cabinet approved the establishment of the NCoE as a Section 8 company under the Companies Act, 2013 in India with the FICCI and Confederation of Indian Industry representing the industry bodies as partners with the government. IANS

Tribal welfare scheme cleared

NEW DELHI: The Cabinet on Wednesday approved the Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan, with a budget of Rs 79,156 crore, to improve the socio-economic conditions of tribal communities across the country. The programme aims to provide all government benefits to five crore tribal families in 63,000 tribal-majority villages.

It will cover 549 districts and 2,740 blocks in 30 states and union territories, according to an official statement. The Abhiyan involves 25 interventions to be implemented by 17 line Ministries. PTI

Cong unveils 'Seven Guarantees'

NEW DELHI

Promising Seven Guarantees including Rs 2,000 per month to women, a gas cylinder for Rs 500, besides a caste survey, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday unveiled the party's manifesto for all sections for the October 5 Haryana Assembly elections.

The party, which was at the helm in the State for two consecutive terms till 2014, announced it would provide LPG cylinders for Rs 500 each, give jobs to two lakh youth, and 300 units of free electricity to each household, besides increase the old-age pension to Rs 6,000 per month.

For the farmers, the manifesto promised to establish a legal guarantee for the MSP of crops. In his remarks, Kharge said: "Other than these seven guarantees, named 'Saat Waade, Pakke Iraade', our 53-page manifesto will be explained in detail later in Chandigarh, but these promises will surely be fulfilled by us."

He said the manifesto would focus on providing benefits to families, empowering women, supporting the youth, strengthening social security, and improving the lives of backward classes, farmers, and the poor. At the manifesto launch ceremony, party General Secretary KC Venugopal, former Haryana and Rajasthan CM Bhupinder Hooda and Ashok Gehlot, respectively, Haryana party chief Udai Bhan and Punjab Leader of Opposition Partap Singh Bajwa, among others, were also present. IANS

Wrestler and Congress candidate Vinesh Phogat campaigns ahead of Haryana Assembly polls, in Jind district. — Photo: PTI

Trump to meet Modi during US visit

FLINT (MI)

Former President Donald Trump said Tuesday that he's meeting next week with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi when Modi visits the US. Modi is scheduled to be in the United States this weekend, along with the leaders of Australia and Japan, for a summit of the so-called Quad hosted by President Joe Biden in his Wilmington, Delaware, hometown. The group is formally called the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, and it began as a partnership after the devastating 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. The popular and polarising Indian prime minister has advanced Hindu nationalism in his decade-long tenure. The meeting between Modi with Trump had not been previously reported. AP

BJP MP booked for remark on Rahul

AMRAVATI

An FIR was registered against BJP's Rajya Sabha member Anil Bonde on the charge of intention to cause riots on Wednesday over his controversial remarks against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, police said. Bonde has kicked up a row, saying Gandhi's tongue should be singed as his remarks on reservation were "dangerous" and hurt the feelings of the 'Bahujan' and majority communities.

The FIR against Bonde followed a sit-in protest by Congress leaders, including Amravati MP Balwant Wankhede, MLA Yashomati Thakur, former Minister Sunil Deshmukh and the party workers at the office of the city police commissioner. A case was registered against Bonde at Rajapeth police station in Amravati under sections 192 (Wantonly giving provocation with intent to cause riots), 351 (ii) (the act of intentionally causing another person to apprehend the use of criminal force) and 356 (Punishment for defamation) against MP Anil Bonde. "The language of chopping off the tongue is not proper, but what Rahul ji said against reservation is dangerous," Bonde said on Tuesday while reacting to remarks made by a Shiv Sena MLA against Rahul Gandhi.

"Hence, if anyone speaks anything absurd in a foreign country, then rather than chopping off his tongue, it should be singed. It is necessary to certainly singe the tongues of such people - be it Rahul Gandhi, Dnyanesh Maharao or Shyam Manav and people who hurt the feelings of the 'Bahujan' and majority," Bonde said. Maharao, an author, is accused of making derogatory comments on Hindu deities, while Manav is an anti-superstition crusader. PTI

Congress workers stage a protest against Union Minister of State for Railways Ravneet Singh Bittu and Shiv Sena MLA Sanjay Gaikwad, in Agartala on Wednesday. — Photo: PTI

Cong files complaint against NDA leaders

NEW DELHI: The Congress on Wednesday filed a police complaint over the recent statements of leaders belonging to the ruling NDA targeting Rahul Gandhi, alleging that they were aimed at jeopardising his security and disturbing peace given the polls in Jammu and Kashmir, and Haryana. In the complaint submitted to the SHO of the Tughlaq Road police station by AICC treasurer and general secretary Ajay Maken, the Congress cited the recent remarks by BJP leaders Tarvinder Singh Marwah, Ravneet Singh Bittu and Raghuraj Singh, as well as that of Shiv Sena MLA Sanjay Gaikwad. Maken sought registration of FIRs against the leaders.

Speaking with the media after filing the complaint, Maken said, "We all know that late Indira Gandhi ji and late Rajiv ji have sacrificed their lives for the country. Even after that, they are giving such threats." Politics in India cannot stoop to a lower level than this, he said. Not just one BJP leader, but many leaders have said such things, but BJP did not take any action, he said. "Rahul Gandhi talks about SC, ST, OBC, tribal and minority people. That is why BJP people do not like his words. This is the reason why they are threatening him," he said. "But let me tell you — this is the Congress and we are not going to be scared or cowed down," Maken said. PTI

Oppn calls simultaneous polls 'cheap stunt'

NEW DELHI

Opposition parties on Wednesday opposed the "one nation, one election" proposal as a report of a panel on simultaneous elections, headed by former president Ram Nath Kovind, was approved by the union Cabinet. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said "one nation, one election" is not practical and alleged that the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) comes up with such things to divert attention from real issues when polls approach.

"It is not practical, it will not work. When elections come and they (BJP) do not get any issue to raise, they divert attention from real issues," Kharge said. TMC leader Derek O'Brien called it a "cheap stunt" of the BJP and questioned why the Maharashtra polls were not announced with those in Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir if the government wants simultaneous elections. "One nation, one election is just another cheap stunt by the anti-democratic BJP. Why were the Maharashtra elections not announced along with the elections in Haryana and J&K?" he asked. "The Maharashtra government announced the Ladki Bahin scheme in the Budget in June. The first tranche reached the bank accounts of women in August and the second tranche will reach the beneficiaries in October," he said. "You cannot do three states in one go and you talk about one nation, one election," O'Brien said.

He also sought to know how many Constitution amendments and curtailments of the terms of state Assemblies would be required for the implementation of the proposal. "And also tell us, how many Constitution amendments, including curtailing or extending terms of state Assemblies, will be done! Classic Modi-Shah jumla," the TMC leader said in a statement. PTI

Manipur villagers take on militants

Firing reported at Mongbung Meitei village, no casualties

IANS
IMPHAL

After a few days of lull, suspected militants fired at Mongbung Meitei village in Manipur's Jiribam district, officials said on Wednesday.

A police official in Imphal said that suspected militants fired several rounds from their sophisticated arms on Tuesday night and the ultras fled after the armed village volunteers retaliated. None was, however, injured in the half-an-hour-long gun battle, the official said.

Combined security forces have rushed to the area and launched a combing operation to nab the militants. Senior police officials are monitoring the situation in mixed population Jiribam district, adjoining southern Assam. Police urged the villagers to help the security forces while conducting operations and to nab the militants.

Combined security forces rushed to the area and launched a combing operation to nab the militants; police officials monitoring situation in Jiribam district

Meanwhile, security has been further tightened in some districts after several incidents of violence in different districts between September 1 and 7, that left 20 people injured and claimed 12 lives, including that of two women. After the violent incidents and students' protests against the militant attacks, the Manipur government closed educational institutions across the State on September 6. However, after 11 days of closure, all schools, colleges and technical institutions were reopened across Manipur on Tuesday.

The Army, and the Assam Rifles, along with the Border Security Force, the Central Reserve Police Force, and the Manipur Police continued their anti-insurgency and search operations both in the valley and mountainous areas.

With the improvement in the situation the Manipur government on Monday lifted the week-long ban on mobile Internet services in the five valley districts — Imphal West, Imphal East, Thoubal, Bishnupur and Kakching. Meanwhile, after no incidents of violence in the last few days, the authorities of five trouble-torn districts relaxed curfew for 10 to 13 hours in Imphal East, Imphal West, Bishnupur, Thoubal and Jiribam.

Switch to eVisa, UK tells immigrants

Part of plans to fully digitise border and immigration system by 2025

LONDON

An eVisa allows visa holders to instantly and securely prove their immigration rights, says UK Home Office.

The UK on Wednesday launched a major drive urging all immigrants across the country, including Indians, who are using a physical immigration document to take immediate action to transition to an eVisa.

As part of plans to fully digitise the UK border and immigration system, all those using a physical biometric residence permit (BRP), a passport containing a visa vignette sticker or ink stamp confirming their "indefinite leave to enter/remain" in the country, or biometric residence card (BRC) as evidence of their immigration rights will be switched over to an entirely online system by next year.

A majority of the BRPs are set to expire towards the end of this year and are being automatically transitioned online in phases to be accessed by creating and logging into a UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) online account.

"Everyone with physical immigration documents is urged to take action now to switch to an eVisa, and I want to reassure those who need it that free advice and support is available," said Seema Malhotra, the Indian-origin Minister for Migration and Citizenship at the UK Home Office.

To help with the transition process, during which physical documentation will still be accepted, the Home Office is laying out around GBP 4 million of grant funding from this month to a UK-wide network of voluntary and community sector organisations to provide independent support for "vulnerable customers" unsure about accessing eVisas.

A nationwide advertising campaign will also raise awareness of the move to eVisas and encourage those affected to take action before many immigration documents expire in December 2024."It is free and straightforward to switch to an eVisa, which offers greater customer convenience, significant cost savings and enhanced security for the UK's border and immigration system. An eVisa cannot be lost, stolen or tampered with, and allows visa holders to instantly and securely prove their immigration rights. Switching won't change, impact or remove a customer's current rights or immigration status," the Home Office said.

The transition to eVisas is a key element of the British government's move to digitise its border and immigration system, replacing physical immigration documents with digital proof of immigration status for most new visa customers in the coming weeks and most visa holders already living in the UK by 2025.

The government's grant funding will be divided between Migrant Help, Citizens Advice Scotland, the Welsh Refugee Council, and Advice NI, spread across all regions of the United Kingdom to offer immediate and free support for any vulnerable individuals struggling with their transition to an eVisa, with details also available online on GOV.UK. Using a phased approach to implementing digital services, the Home Office intends that by 2025 most people will have a "secure and seamless digital journey" when they interact with the UK's immigration system. With an eVisa, it is also hoped that fewer people will need to leave their passports with the Home Office while awaiting a decision on their immigration status. eVisas also mean that migrants do not need to make trips to collect documents like BRPs or wait for these documents to be sent to them, saving them on renewal fees. PTI

In Brief

NEW DELHI

Rs 24,475 cr subsidy

The government on Wednesday approved Rs 24,474.53 crore subsidy on phosphatic and potassic (P&K) fertilisers for the rabi season of 2024-25 to ensure supply of crop nutrients to farmers at affordable rates. The Cabinet, chaired by PM Narendra Modi, has approved the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for rabi season 2024 (from October 2024 to March 2025) on P&K fertilizers. "The tentative requirement for rabi would be Rs 24,475.53 crore," a statement said. PTI

NEW DELHI

IT stocks tumble

IT stocks faced heavy selling on Wednesday, with frontline firms like Tata Consultancy Services and HCL Tech falling over 3 per cent each, dragging the equity markets lower. Among blue-chip stocks Tata Consultancy Services fell 3.49 per cent, followed by HCL Technologies, which declined 3.15 per cent on the BSE. Also, Infosys dropped 3.09 per cent, Tech Mahindra (2.79 per cent), and Wipro (2.64 per cent). Oracle Financial Services Software tumbled 8.31%. PTI

India serves notice to Pak for review of Indus Water Treaty

NEW DELHI

In a significant move, India has served a formal notice to Pakistan seeking a review of the 64-year-old Indus Water Treaty, citing "fundamental and unforeseen" changes in the circumstances and impact of persistent cross border terrorism.

The notice was issued to Pakistan on August 30 under Article XII(3) of the Indus Water Treaty (IWT), government sources said on Wednesday. India and Pakistan signed the IWT on September 19, 1960 after nine years of negotiations with a sole aim to manage cross-border rivers.

India's notification highlights fundamental and unforeseen changes in circumstances that require a reassessment of obligations under various articles of the treaty, the sources said.

Among various concerns, the important ones include change in population demographics, environmental issues and the need to accelerate development of clean energy to meet India's emission targets, they said.

India also cited the impact of cross border terrorism as one of the reasons for demanding the review. It was the second time in over one-and-half years that India issued a notice to Pakistan seeking modification of the IWT.

"The notification was issued in the background of a separate prolonged controversy with respect to Kishanganga and Ratle Hydro Projects," said a source.

"The World Bank has simultaneously activated both the neutral expert mechanism and the Court of Arbitration on the same set of issues," it said. "India has, therefore, also called for reconsideration of the dispute resolution mechanism under the treaty." PTI

Israel to invest $133 mn for AI

JERUSALEM

Israel will invest half a billion shekels (about $133 million) in infrastructure for artificial intelligence (AI) research and development. The funds, part of a national AI programme, will be invested in enhancing AI integration in the public sector, including the creation of a knowledge hub to support government ministries and local authorities, the Israel Innovation Authority said in a statement on Tuesday.

They will support the establishment of a national AI research institute and projects that connect research with industry and defence applications. IANS

Google wins fight over $1.66 bn EU fine

LONDON

Google won a court challenge on Wednesday against a 1.49 billion euro (USD 1.66 billion) European union antitrust fine imposed five years ago that targeted its online advertising business.

The EU's General Court said it was throwing out the 2019 penalty imposed by the European Commission, which is the 27-nation bloc's top antitrust enforcer. "The General Court annuls the Commission's decision in its entirety," the court said in a press release. The commission's ruling applied to a narrow portion of Google's ad business: ads that the US tech giant sold next to Google search results on third-party websites.

Regulators had accused Google of inserting exclusivity clauses in its contracts that barred these websites from running similarly placed ads sold by Google's rivals. The commission said when it issued the penalty that Google's behaviour resulted in advertisers and website owners having less choice and likely facing higher prices that would be passed on to consumers.

But the General Court said the commission "committed errors" when it assessed those clauses. The commission failed to demonstrate that Google's contracts deterred innovation, harmed consumers or helped the company hold on to and strengthen its dominant position in national online search advertising markets, it said. The ruling can be appealed, but only on points of law, to the Court of Justice, the bloc's top court.

The commission said in a brief statement that it "will carefully study the judgment and reflect on possible next steps".

Google did not respond immediately to a request for comment. The company's legal victory comes a week after it lost a final challenge against a separate EU antitrust case for its shopping comparison service that also involved a hefty fine. They were among three antitrust penalties totalling about 8 billion euros (USD 8.9 billion) that the commission punished Google with in the previous decade.

The penalties marked the beginning of an era of intensifying scrutiny for Big Tech companies. Since then, Google has faced escalating pressure on both sides of the Atlantic over its digital ad business. It's currently battling the Justice Department in a US federal court over allegations that its dominance over the technology that controls the sale of billions of internet display ads constitutes an illegal monopoly. British competition regulators this month accused the company of abusing its dominance in the country's digital ad market and giving preference to its own services. EU antitrust enforcers carrying out their own investigation suggested last year that breaking up the company was the only way to satisfy competition concerns about its digital ad business. AP

4 killed in Delhi building collapse

NEW DELHI

Four people died and 14 others sustained injuries when a five-storey building housing a slipper factory and residential accommodation for workers collapsed on Wednesday morning in a congested area in Bapa Nagar in central Delhi, police said.

Rescuers faced a tough time as they reached the site after navigating through the very narrow lanes and 18 people were pulled out of the rubble during an eight-hour operation. Police said heavy machines like cranes could not reach the site. The Chief of Delhi Fire Service (DFS), Atul Garg, said even stretchers couldn't be taken to the site. While sharing a video on X, Garg stated that DFS personnel carried the victims on their backs. PTI

Onam Festivities End On Grand Note

Artists perform Kerala's traditional art form Pulikali to mark the conclusion of Onam celebrations in Thrissur on Wednesday. — Photo: PTI

CM will decide, on Dy CM post: Udhayanidhi

CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin will take a decision on elevating him as deputy CM, ruling DMK's youth wing secretary and Sports Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin said here on Wednesday.

When reporters sought his reaction to an excitement among party cadres that his elevation in the Cabinet was imminent, he said, "Chief Minister will take a decision."

When journalists told the Minister that party workers had gathered at party headquarters, "Anna Arivalayam", with firecrackers to celebrate, he said he could not visit the head office. Days ago, CM Stalin hinted at a Cabinet reshuffle and had said, "What is expected will happen." PTI

Patient watches Jr NTR film as AP doctors perform complex brain surgery

NEW DELHI

In a medical marvel, doctors at a government hospital in Andhra Pradesh's Kakinada performed a complex brain surgery — awake craniotomy — while the patient watched a film by Jr NTR. Awake craniotomy is a method where the patient remains conscious during the procedure. The 55-year-old patient A Ananthalakshmi underwent surgery for a brain tumour at Kakinada's Government General Hospital (GGH). She had been suffering from symptoms like numbness in her limbs and persistent headaches and was later diagnosed with a 3.3 x 2.7 cm tumour on the left side of her brain. Due to high treatment costs at private hospitals, she chose the government hospital for the operation.

Doctors successfully removed a tumour during a procedure which lasted for two and a half hours at Kakinada's Government General Hospital

To keep Ananthalakshmi calm and focused during the surgery, the doctors screened scenes from Jr NTR's Adhurs, her favourite film. The doctors successfully removed the tumour in a procedure, which lasted for two and a half hours. The doctors anticipate that the patient will be discharged within five days.

Awake craniotomy, also called awake brain surgery, was initially used for the surgical treatment of epilepsy and is now most commonly performed for the resection of tumours. When the patient remains awake, it allows the neurosurgeon to maximise tumour resection while preserving neurological function. A week ago, a similar surgery was performed by doctors at Kalyan Singh Cancer Institute in Uttar Pradesh to remove a tumour. Throughout the innovative surgery, the 56-year-old patient remained fully awake and engaged with his mobile phone. This helped reduce the risk of nerve damage. Earlier this year in January, a five-year-old girl underwent awake surgery at AIIMS Delhi to remove a deadly tumour from her brain. During the complex surgery, the girl spoke with the doctors and also recognised a picture of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. IANS

Rs 31,000 cr to fence India-Myanmar's 1,643-KM border

NEW DELHI

The entire 1,643 km porous India-Myanmar border, known for the smuggling of arms, ammunition and narcotics, will be fenced at a cost of Rs 31,000 crore, sources said on Wednesday.

On Tuesday, union Home Minister Amit Shah said fencing work had been completed in 30 km of the border, which he termed the root cause of the ethnic violence in Manipur.

The Cabinet Committee on Security has, in principle, approved the construction of border fencing and roads along the 1,643-km international border between India and Myanmar at an approximate cost of Rs 31,000 crore, sources said.

About 10 km of fencing has already been completed near Moreh and work is underway to fence another 21 km of the border in other areas of Manipur. The India-Myanmar border passes through Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh.

The Central government has already scrapped the the India-Myanmar Free Movement Regime (FMR), which allows people residing close to the border to venture 16 km into each other's territory without any documents. PTI

B'desh army to ensure peace

Interim govt grants magisterial powers for two months to improve law and order

PTI
DHAKA

Bangladesh's interim government has granted magisterial powers to the Army for two months to improve law and order in the violence-hit country and prevent "subversive acts".

The Ministry of Public Administration issued a notification on the government's decision on Tuesday, saying it will be applicable with immediate effect. The powers will be given to commissioned officers of the Army. The order will remain in force for the next 60 days.

Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd.) Md Jahangir Alam Chowdhury said on Wednesday the people will get the benefit of bestowing magistracy power upon the army, state-owned BSS news agency reported. "Police officials who are yet to join the services, won't be allowed to join anymore," he said, adding that the "people of Bangla (Bangladesh) will reap the benefit of bestowing the magistracy power upon the commissioned officers of Bangladesh Army."

> **The army is a disciplined and people-friendly force. People have no problem communicating with them**
> — LT GEN (RETD) MD JAHANGIR ALAM CHOWDHURY, Home Adviser

Responding to questions from the media after the closing ceremony of the basic training for 40th BCS (Ansar) officers and 25th batch sepoy recruits at the Bangladesh Ansar and VDP Academy in Safipur, Chowdhury said, "The Army has been given the magistracy power to ensure public service and maintain the law and order." He said the law enforcement agencies lack manpower and the magistracy power has been given to the Army to fill up the gap. "Bangladesh Army is a disciplined and people-friendly force. The commoners have no problem communicating with them as well as taking help from them," he said in response to another question.

Section 17 of the CrPC, which awards Army officers the status of special executive magistrates, says these officers shall be subordinate to district magistrates, or deputy commissioners. This authority including arrest and dispersal of unlawful rallies has been conferred upon commissioned officers of the Army.

In self-defence and extreme need, the officer can open fire, said an adviser to the interim government on Tuesday.

2nd wave of explosions in Lebanon, Israel declares 'new phase' of war

Walkie-talkies and solar equipment go up; nine dead, 300 injured

BEIRUT

Walkie-talkies and solar equipment exploded in Beirut and multiple parts of Lebanon on Wednesday in an apparent second wave of attacks targeting electronic devices a day after hundreds of pagers used by Hezbollah blew up, state media and Hezbollah officials said.

At least nine people were killed and more than 300 people wounded in the second wave, the Health Ministry said. The attacks, which were widely believed to be carried out by Israel targeting Hezbollah, have hiked fears that the two sides' simmering conflict could escalate into all-out war. Speaking to Israeli troops on Wednesday, Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said, "We are at the start of a new phase in the war — it requires courage, determination and perseverance." He made no mention of the explosions but praised the work of Israel's army and security agencies, saying "the results are very impressive."

In Wednesday's attacks, several blasts were heard at a funeral in Beirut for three Hezbollah members and a child killed by exploding pagers the day before, according to *Associated Press* journalists at the scene. An *AP* photographer in the southern coastal city of Sidon saw a car and a mobile phone shop damaged after devices exploded inside of them. A girl was hurt in the south when a solar energy system blew up, the state news agency reported.

The new blasts hit a country still roiling with confusion and anger after Tuesday's pager bombings, which appeared to be a complex Israeli attack targeting Hezbollah members that caused civilian casualties, too. Tuesday's bombings killed at least 12 people, including two children, and wounded some 2,800 others. The second wave also deepens concern over the potentially indiscriminate casualties caused in the attacks, in which hundreds of blasts went off wherever the holder of the pager happened to be — in homes, cars, at grocery stores and in cafes, often with family or bystanders nearby.

While the pagers were used by Hezbollah members, there was no guarantee who was holding the device at the time of the blast. Also, many of the casualties were not Hezbollah fighters, but members of the group's extensive civilian operations mainly serving Lebanon's Shiite community. At least two health workers were among those killed on Tuesday. Doctors, nurses, paramedics, charity workers, teachers and office administrators work for Hezbollah-linked organisations, and an unknown number had pagers. UN human rights chief Volker Türk called for an independent investigation into the mass explosions. "The fear and terror unleashed is profound," he said, urging world leaders to step up "in defence of the rights of all people to live in peace and security."

Meanwhile, Israel began moving more troops to its border with Lebanon on Wednesday as a precautionary measure, according to an official. In his comments, Gallant said after months of fighting Hamas in Gaza, "the centre of gravity is shifting to the north by diverting resources and forces." As Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu huddled with top security officials at Israeli military headquarters in Tel Aviv, the country's army chief, Lt Gen Herzi Halevi, said plans have been drawn up for additional action against Hezbollah.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the US is assessing how the attack could affect efforts to negotiate a ceasefire in Israel-Hamas. AP

Relatives mourn a 10-year-old girl killed after hundreds of paging devices exploded in Lebanon, during her funeral at Saraain village in Bekaa valley on Wednesday. — Photo: AFP

'Pagers made by Budapest firm'

TAIPEI: A company based in Hungary was responsible for manufacturing the pagers that exploded in Lebanon and Syria in an apparent Israeli operation targeting Hezbollah's communications network, another firm whose brand was used on the devices said on Wednesday.

An American official said Israel briefed the US on Tuesday after the attack, in which small amounts of explosive hidden in the pagers were detonated. The AR-924 pagers used in the attack were manufactured by BAC Consulting KFT, based in the Hungarian capital of Budapest, according to a statement released by Gold Apollo, a Taiwanese firm that authorised the use of its brand on the pagers.

BAC appeared to be a shell company. "According to the cooperation agreement, we authorise BAC to use our brand trademark for product sales in designated regions, but the design and manufacturing of the products are solely the responsibility of BAC," Gold Apollo said.

The company's chair, Hsu Ching-kuang, said on Wednesday the firm has had a licensing agreement with BAC for the past three years. BAC Consulting Kft, a limited liability company, was registered in May 2022, according to company records. It has 7,840 euros in standing capital, the records showed, and had a revenue of $725,768 in 2022 and $593,972 last year. At the headquarters in a building in a residential neighbourhood of Budapest, *Associated Press* journalists saw the names of multiple companies, including BAC Consulting, posted on pieces of paper on a window. A woman who emerged from the building and declined to give her name, said the site provides headquarter addresses to various companies. BAC is registered to Cristiana Rosaria Bársony-Arcidiacono. AP

30 civilians killed in Mexico violence

MEXICO CITY

At least 30 civilians have been killed since a wave of violence hit northwest Mexico's Sinaloa state, Defense Minister Luis Cresencio Sandoval said.

During President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador's usual daily press conference, Sandoval said the federal government was reinforcing security in the area to clamp down on the violence, which has also claimed the lives of two soldiers.

Authorities have arrested at least 30 suspects belonging to criminal organisations and seized 115 firearms since the violence started in the state on September 9, reports Xinhua news agency, quoting Sandoval.

The recent spate of violence erupted following clashes between rival drug-trafficking groups, including one headed by Ismael 'Mayo' Zambada and another led by 'Los Chapitos', sons of jailed Mexican drug kingpin Joaquin 'El Chapo' Guzman.

Zambada, a longtime associate of 'El Chapo', was arrested on July 25 in the United States, sparking clashes between the two main factions of the Sinaloa Cartel, according to authorities. Mexico's President said his administration, which concludes this month, was working to quell the fighting and protect area residents. "We are attentive to what is happening in Sinaloa," the President said. IANS

Netherlands wants to opt out of EU migration rules

BRUSSELS

The new Dutch government dominated by the far-right party of Geert Wilders officially asked the EU for an exemption from its migration obligations on Wednesday, seeking to fulfil a campaign promise to drastically reduce the number of immigrants in the nation. Dutch Migration Minister Marjolein Faber wrote to the European Commission that the Netherlands wants out of regulations for accepting refugees. "We need to be in charge of our own asylum policy again!" Faber wrote to Ylva Johansson, European Commissioner for Home Affairs. AP

In Brief

VANCOUVER

'More work to do'

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said he's focused on the work ahead after the ruling Liberals lost in another by-election recently, raising more questions about his ability to lead the party into the next federal election. For the second time in recent months, the Liberals lost in a former stronghold when the Bloc Quebecois won the vote in the electoral district of LaSalle-Emard-Verdun on Monday in Montreal in a tight three-way race with the New Democratic Party. AP

TEHRAN

Iran for ties with Russia

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian said strengthening cooperation between Tehran and Moscow would help mitigate the impacts of Western sanctions and "unjust" measures imposed on both nations. Pezeshkian made the remarks in a meeting with visiting Secretary of the Russian Federation Security Council Sergei Shoigu. Pezeshkian said bilateral ties would be developed on a "permanent, continuous, and lasting path", according to an official statement. IANS

ISLAMABAD

Minister slams Imran

Imran Khan's crimes alone are enough to keep him behind bars, Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has said, as he dismissed the former PM's accusation that the government was pushing to amend the constitution to keep him in prison. The PTI founder rejected the anticipated constitutional changes, claiming that it was an effort to keep him in prison. Asif said, "Given the PTI founder's long list of crimes, constitutional amendments won't be necessary." PTI

Cuteness Overload

A lion cub and mother 'Indi' in an area visible to visitors for the first time, at Schwerin zoo in Germany. — Photo: AP

North Korea fires ballistic missiles

SEOUL

North Korea fired multiple short-range ballistic missiles in the northeastern direction on Wednesday, South Korea's military said, further ratcheting up tensions already heightened by its rare disclosure of a uranium enrichment facility last week.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said it detected the launches at about 6.50 am from the North's Kaechon area in South Phyongan province, north of Pyongyang. "While strengthening our monitoring and vigilance against additional launches, our military will share North Korean ballistic missile information with the US and Japanese sides and maintain a full readiness posture," the JCS said. IANS

Withdraw troops from Rafah: Egypt

Stresses need for Israel to accept return of Palestinian Authority to manage crucial Rafah crossing

CAIRO

Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty has urged the withdrawal of the Israeli army from the Palestinian side of the Rafah crossing and the Philadelphi Corridor. Abdelatty made the remarks during his meeting in Cairo with Tor Wennesland, the United Nations special coordinator for the Middle East peace process, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry said.

The Minister stressed the need for Israel to accept the return of the Palestinian Authority to manage the Rafah crossing, which would allow the resumption of the crossing's operation.

India abstains on UNGA resolution

India on Wednesday abstained in the UNGA on a resolution that demanded that Israel bring an end, "without delay", to its unlawful presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory within 12 months. The 193-member Assembly adopted the resolution, with 124 nations voting in favour, 14 against and 43 abstentions. Those abstaining included Australia, Canada, Germany, Italy, Nepal, Ukraine and the UK. Israel and the US were among tose who voted against the resolution titled 'Advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences arising from Israel's policies and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and from the illegality of Israel's continued presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory'. The resolution demanded that "Israel ends unlawful presence in Occupied Palestinian Territory".

Sinwar to stay in Gaza

A Hamas official said the movement's leader, Yahya Sinwar, will remain in the Gaza Strip and is "willing to die for Palestine." Osama Hamdan, a member of Hamas' political bureau, said "Sinwar is prepared to martyr himself countless times in Palestine and will not leave."

3 Hezbollah members killed in airstrike

Three Hezbollah members died in an Israeli airstrike on a village in south Lebanon, according to Lebanese military sources. They said an Israeli warplane fired two air-to-ground missiles at a house. AGENCIES

40 DIE IN NIGERIA ROAD ACCIDENT

ABUJA: At least 40 people were killed earlier this week after a bus-truck collision in Nigeria's northwestern state of Kaduna, Nigerian President Bola Tinubu's spokesman said. Dozens of survivors sustained varying degrees of injury from the incident, which occurred in the Saminaka town of Kaduna, during a religious celebration on Sunday, Bayo Onanuga, a presidential spokesman said in a statement issued on behalf of Tinubu. The victims were on their way from Kwandari, a town in the north-central state of Plateau when their ill-fated bus collided with a truck. The Nigerian leader directed the Federal Roads Safety Corps to improve highway monitoring and reduce road accidents. IANS

BUS OVERTURNS IN IRAN, 10 KILLED

TEHRAN: Ten people were killed and 36 others injured after a bus overturned in the Iranian province of Yazd. The incident occurred around 2.20 am local time on Tuesday at an intercity road near Saghand village in Ardakan County, as the bus veered off the main road, entered a mining access road, and overturned, Iran's Traffic Police Chief Hassan Momeni said. Momeni said the bus was travelling from the southern Iranian province of Bushehr to the northeastern city of Mashhad, adding that the injured had been transferred to medical centres in Yazd, state-run IRNA said. The cause of the incident will be announced following investigations, he said. Yazd's Red Crescent Society MD Mohammad Eshqi said 51 people were on the bus. IANS

5 KILLED, 28 INJURED IN BUS CRASH

LIMA: At least five people were killed and 28 others injured after two buses collided in north Peru's La Libertad region, the National Police of Peru (PNP) said. The accident occurred on a road in the Chicama District, Ascope Province, involving a passenger bus travelling between the Gran Chimu and Trujillo provinces, and another vehicle transporting workers from an agro-industrial company on Tuesday, according to Xinhua news agency. "We have a report of 28 wounded," PNP Commander Carlos Odria told a local media outlet. "Personnel from two mobile units are at the scene, providing support and assistance to the wounded." The PNP has not ruled out speeding as a possible cause. IANS

Can Team India conquer spin test?

Lock horns with confident Bangladesh in first Test in Chennai

PTI
CHENNAI

Littered largely with lopsided contests, India's hopes of walking down that familiar path will hinge on sorting an uncharacteristic batting infirmity against spin when they face Bangladesh in a two-Test series starting here from Thursday.

Bangladesh, who are fresh from a recent 2-0 drubbing of Pakistan, are no pushovers this time and this will add to India's list of concerns as they look to take that bold first step into a long season that features 10 Tests, including a possible berth in the World Test Championship Final.

India's 40-4 (win-loss) home record in the last decade is awe-inducing but there is an ever-little crack, which is getting more pronounced in the past three years, particularly in the case of star batter Virat Kohli. Kohli was a constant in India's bull run at home since 2015, crunching runs for fun against all comers. But since 2021, his numbers against spin have dipped -an average of 30 in 15 Tests in this period.

This is not to hold against Kohli's extraordinary qualities as a batter, but it's an area that the champion cricketer himself will certainly want to improve upon. Skipper Rohit Sharma has also been prolific in dismantling spin, especially since his promotion as an opener in 2017 against South Africa. He averaged over 90 against tweakers. But since 2021, it has come down to a less flashy 44 in 15 matches.

Rishabh Pant with support staff during a training session in Chennai, on Wednesday. —Photo: AP

KL Rahul as equally proficient against spin and pace, offers a slightly bleaker picture. In the last three years, he has played five Tests at home but against the slower kind, the elegant right-hander's average has taken a beating and stands at 23.40.

Collectively, these stats need to be taken as an indication of waning skills but, perhaps, also as a reminder to refocus on perfecting the art of playing spin, often the core strength of batters from this part of the world. Assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate had stressed this point recently after India's debacle against Sri Lankan spinners in a three-match ODI series which they lost 0-2.

"Our quality batters can handle B'desh spinners"

CHENNAI: India head coach Gautam Gambhir on Wednesday expressed confidence in his batting unit's capability to negate quality spin bowling, a challenge they are expected to face in the Test series against Bangladesh.

India batters, including star batter Virat Kohli, struggled against Sri Lankan spinners in the ODI-leg of the recent away white-ball series. "Our batting unit has so much quality that it can take on any spin unit. There is a lot of difference between ODIs and Tests. It's all about the mindset and working and strengthening your defence and once you have it, then you play around it," Gambhir said. The former Indian opener, conceded that Bangladesh have experienced and quality tweakers in their ranks. "They have a very good bowling attack. Shakib (Al Hasan) has got the experience. Mahidi (Hasan) is there as well. So, we know that there is talent in Bangladesh. The important thing is that we need to be switched on from day one," he added. PTI

Duleep Trophy: Samson, Iyer, Parag aim to impress

All four teams gear up for final round

ANANTAPUR

The likes of Shreyas Iyer, Sanju Samson, Riyan Parag and Rinku Singh will get another opportunity to enhance their red-ball credentials when the final round of Duleep Trophy matches begin here on Thursday.

No knockout games are scheduled for the season opening event and the team with maximum points will lift the trophy. With nine points from two games, India C sit at the top of the points table, followed by India B (7), India A (6) and India D (0).

Table leaders India C, captained by Ruturaj Gaikwad, will take on Mayank Agarwal-led India A, while Abhimanyu Easwaran-led India B will face India D, whose captain is under pressure Iyer. After being ignored for the Bangladesh series, Iyer had a point to prove but he has not been able to lead from the front thus far in the competition. With his team yet to earn a point in the tournament, he will be fired up to put an inspiring performance.

The performance of India D batter Samson and pacer Arshdeep Singh will also be tracked by the selectors. In the India B camp, Rinku will be aiming to get big runs after low returns in the previous game. In the India A versus India C contest, the selectors will be expecting more runs from Agarwal, Parag and Sai Sudharsan. Parag has batted confidently thus far but needs to stay longer in the middle.

Pacer Prasidh Krishna, making a comeback from injury in the previous round, would be looking to log in a significant number of overs while Shams Mulani will be fancying another match-winning effort in the prevailing conditions. Ishan Kishan, who made a memorable return to red-ball cricket by scoring a hundred for India C, will need another epic knock to garner more attention from the selectors. PTI

Sanju Samson

Shreyas Iyer

Riyan Parag

Squads

India A: Mayank Agarwal (C), Riyan Parag, Tilak Varma, Shivam Dube, Tanush Kotian, Prasidh Krishna, Khaleel Ahmed, Avesh Khan, Kumar Kushagra, Shaswat Rawat, Pratham Singh, Akshay Wadkar, SK Rasheed, Shams Mulani, Aaqib Khan;

India B: Abhimanyu Easwaran (C), Musheer Khan, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Washington Sundar, Navdeep Saini, Mukesh Kumar, Rahul Chahar, R Sai Kishore, Mohit Awasthi, N Jagadeesan (WK), Suyash Prabhudessai, Rinku Singh, Himanshu Mantri (WK);

India C: Ruturaj Gaikwad (C), Sai Sudharsan, Rajat Patidar, Abishek Porel (WK), Ishan Kishan, B Indrajith, Hrithik Shokeen, Manav Suthar, Gaurav Yadav, Vyshak Vijaykumar, Anshul Khamboj, Himanshu Chauhan, Mayank Markande, Aryan Juyal (WK), Sandeep Warrier;

India D: Shreyas Iyer (C), Atharva Taide, Yash Dubey, Devdutt Padikkal, Ricky Bhui, Saransh Jain, Arshdeep Singh, Aditya Thakare, Harshit Rana, Akash Sengupta, KS Bharat (WK), Saurabh Kumar, Sanju Samson (WK), Nishant Sindhu, Vidwath Kaverappa.

Kamindu's ton gives Lanka solid start

GALLE

Kamindu Mendis' 114-run inning propelled Sri Lanka to a solid score of 302/7 at the end of Day One against New Zealand in the first test match at the Galle International Stadium.

After winning the toss and electing to bat first, fast bowler Will O'Rourke got the Black Caps off to a solid start having sent openers Dimuth Karunaratne (2 runs) and Pathum Nissanka (27 runs) back to the pavilion in the opening hour. Tim Southee contributed to Rourke's fiery start to the game and got Dinesh Chandimal's scalp to reduce the Lions to 88/3. Will continued his onslaught which ended in injuring Sri Lanka's most experienced player Angelo Matthews when a ball struck him on the fingers forcing him to retire hurt. With the batting order in a tricky situation, Kamindu Mendis was promoted up to number five on the day and steadied the Sri Lankan innings.

Sri Lanka's Kamindu Mendis plays a shot against New Zealand.

Dhananjay de Silva, who is coming off a solid Test series performance in England, was dismissed for a mere 11 runs thanks to a brilliant delivery by Glenn Phillips who bowled the wicket-keeper. Upon Matthews' return, the 37-year-old played a small cameo before being dismissed by Will for what was his third wicket of the game.

BRIEF SCORES: Sri Lanka 302/7 in 88 overs (Kamindu Mendis 114, Kusal Mendis 50; Will O'Rourke 3/54) vs NZ. IANS

Harmanpreet hails team's camaraderie

NEW DELHI

Skipper Harmanpreet Singh credited India's recent success to strong team camaraderie, emphasising that their deep bond and willingness to "die for one another" helped them overcome China to win the Hero Asian Champions Trophy for a record-extending fifth time.

India rode on Jugraj Singh's late strike to defeat China 1-0 in a tense final in Hulunbuir on Tuesday. Pakistan won the bronze medal with a 5-2 win over South Korea.

"The final was really intense; the Chinese were breathing down our necks throughout the game and made it really difficult for us to create a clear goal-scoring chance," Harmanpreet said. "But the team over the last year has built immense trust in each other. We are willing to die for one another. It was this sense of unity reassuring us that we will find a way to win the game together."

> **The team over the last year has built immense trust in each other. We are willing to die for one another**
>
> — HARMANPREET SINGH, Indian hockey team skipper

Harmanpreet said India's successful run in the last one year has instilled a strong belief among players. "The gold medal in last year's Asian Champions Trophy in Chennai, the gold medal in the Hangzhou Asian Games and the bronze from the Paris 2024 Olympics have instilled a deep camaraderie within the team." Harmanpreet, who has been shortlisted for FIH's Player-of-the-Year Award after scoring 10 goals at Paris, led from the front as the team remained unbeaten in the competition. PTI

Ponting new Punjab Kings head coach

NEW DELHI

Australian great Ricky Ponting was on Wednesday appointed head coach of Punjab Kings, replacing compatriot Trevor Bayliss in the under-performing IPL franchise.

The former Australian captain has made the switch to Punjab Kings from Delhi Capitals, a team he was part of for seven years. "We are delighted to have Ricky on to guide and build our team for the next four seasons. His experience is crucial to help us develop a squad to deliver on-field success," franchise CEO Satish Menon said.

An IPL source added that Ponting will take a call on the rest of the support staff. Under Ponting, Delhi Capitals became a force to reckon with though the elusive title never came. The team reached the final in 2020. Punjab too have never won the IPL and the four co-owners will be hoping the World Cup-winning captain takes them all the way. PTI

Short takes

CRICKET NEW DELHI

Parthiv hails Pant's Test comeback as inspirational

The arduous wait of 637 days to see Rishabh Pant play Test cricket again for India will end on the morning of September 19 when the Rohit Sharma-led side takes the field for its home series opener against Bangladesh at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai. "He has set a great example, and has become an inspiration for sure. I mean, the kind of accident he had and the way he has made a comeback, it is absolutely remarkable," Parthiv said.

CRICKET NEW DELHI

Never expected I'd play this much for Australia, says Zampa

Australia's upcoming ODI series opener against England at Trent Bridge will also mark Adam Zampa's 100th appearance in the 50-over format. Zampa said he never anticipated playing these number of matches in ODIs. "I'm really proud to get to 100 ODIs, I never expected that I'd play this much for Australia. When you look at the amount of games that people play in ODI cricket these days, not that many get to 100, especially compared to guys in the past," Zampa said.

FOOTBALL ROME

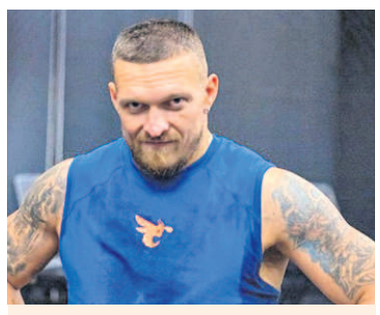
Legendary Italy striker Salvatore 'Totò' Schillaci dies at 59

Salvatore "Totò" Schillaci, the Italy striker who was top scorer at its home World Cup in 1990, has died. He was 59. Schillaci had been hospitalized in Palermo following treatment for colon cancer. The Palermo Civico hospital said in a statement that Schillacci died on Wednesday morning after being admitted 11 days ago. Schillaci scored six goals for Italy during the 1990 World Cup. He earned the Golden Boot award as the tournament's top scorer.

FOOTBALL ROME

Roma sack De Rossi after winless start in Serie A campaign

Roma fired head coach Daniele De Rossi on Wednesday in a move that was surprising despite the Giallorossi going winless in their opening four Italian league matches. De Rossi, a former Roma captain, was hired in January this year to replace the fired Jose Mourinho. "The club's decision is made in the best interests of the team, to get back on the desired path as soon as possible at a time when the season is still in its early stages," Roma said.



BOXING KRAKOW

Boxer Oleksandr released after short detention in Poland

Heavyweight boxing champion Oleksandr Usyk has been released after being briefly detained at Krakow airport in Poland, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Wednesday. "I was disappointed by this attitude towards our citizen and champion," said Zelenskyy after he had a phone conversation with Usyk. He posted a photo of Usyk with Ukraine's Consul General in Krakow after the athlete was released.

STREAMING NOW

Cricket: Ind vs B'desh, Day 1 1st Test, 9.30 am on Sports 18 & JioCinema

SL vs NZ, Day 2 1st Test, Cricket: SL vs NZ, 1st Test Day 1, 10 am on Sony Sports Ten 5

Football: ISL, BFC vs HFC, 7.30 am on Sports 18 & JioCinema

UCL, Atalanta bs Arsenal, 12.30 am (Friday) Sony Sports 2 & 3

Monaco vs Barcelona, 12.30 am (Friday), Sony Sports 1

In Brief

KOLKATA

MBSG play out goalless draw

Mohun Bagan started their AFC Champions League Two campaign on a frustrating note, playing out a goalless draw against Tajikistan's FC Ravshan at the Salt Lake Stadium on Wednesday. Despite better ball possession and creation of a string of chances, the ISL Shield champions failed to break the deadlock, squandering several opportunities in front of their 18,908-strong home supporters.

MOHALI

Punjab's Majcen out for 6-8 weeks

Punjab FC forward Luka Majcen will miss 6-8 weeks of football action in the Indian Super League (ISL) due to the injury he sustained during the season opener against Kerala Blasters. "The Slovenian has sustained two fractures to his jaw and he will undergo surgery in the coming days and will be under the supervision of the medical team. He will return to action in 6-8 weeks," Punjab FC said.

NEW DELHI

Shot-putter Kiran fails dope test

Asian Games bronze-winner shot-putter Kiran Baliyan has been provisionally suspended by the National Anti Doping Agency (NADA) for testing positive for a banned substance as a slew of athletes across sports figured in the latest list of dope offenders. Surprisingly, Olympic medallist Bajrang Punia's name is missing from the latest update though he figured in a previous list issued by the NADA recently.

LAHORE

Cash reward for Pakistan players

Believe it or not, players and officials of the Pakistan hockey team, which secured a bronze medal at the Asian Champions Trophy, will receive a reward of $ 100 (approximately 28,000 PKR) each for their efforts. The Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) made this announcement on Wednesday, confirming the special cash prize sanctioned by PHF President Mir Tariq Bugti.

HFC gear up for ISL campaign

Face Bengaluru FC in opener

Hyderabad FC's Alex Saji during a training session.

BENGALURU

Bengaluru FC Head Coach Gerard Zaragoza called for his side to be focused on the task at hand when former League champions Hyderabad FC visit the Kanteerava Stadium, Bengaluru for their first fixture of the season, on Thursday.

Hyderabad, who finished bottom of the pile last season, will be keen to begin with a win under head coach Thangboi Singto. "The aim is to see where we can improve from the game against East Bengal and do better. The reality is that when we faced Hyderabad FC last season, it was a difficult game. We don't want that to happen on Thursday. We have to control and dominate. The last 20 minutes of every ISL match so far this season has been difficult for the teams, and that's something I want to avoid," said Zaragoza. Bengaluru began their League campaign with a 1-0 win at home on Saturday, with Vinith Venkatesh's first half strike proving the difference against East Bengal FC.

The Blues ended the game with an all-Indian backline, featuring former Hyderabad FC players Nikhil Poojary and Chinglensana Singh, in addition to Rahul Bheke and Naorem Roshan Singh. At the end of the first round of ISL fixtures, the Blues are the only side to win at home.

Hyderabad, with seasoned coach Thangboi Singto at the helm, had a busy finish before the transfer window shut, and with no team having seen much of this newly assembled side, it will be difficult to plan for them. The side that finished last in the table last season after they managed to win only one game in the previous edition. Zaragoza confirmed that he had a fully fit squad available for selection. IANS

Madrid start strong

Mbappe scores as Los Blancos beat Stuttgart 3-1 in UCL game at home

AP
MADRID

Kylian Mbappé renewed his quest to win a European title by scoring for Real Madrid in his first Champions League match with the club.

Mbappé found the open net after a cross by Rodrygo just seconds into the second half of Madrid's 3-1 win over Stuttgart at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium. "It was a great night," Mbappé said. "It was a tough match, as they always are in the Champions League, but it was important to start with the win at home." Mbappé celebrated with a gesture in which he appeared to blow candles and send a kiss. Spanish media said it was to honour his mother's 50th birthday.

The goal gave defending champion Madrid a 1-0 lead before Stuttgart equalized with Deniz Undav in the 68th. Antonio Rüdiger put Madrid back in front in the 83rd and substitute Endrick closed the scoring deep into stoppage time to seal the victory for the defending champions. It was Mbappé's 49th Champions League goal, putting him in the top 10 of top scorers all time in the competition.

He has scored in three consecutive matches and has five goals in seven games with Madrid so far in all competitions. "I can do more," Mbappé said. "I'm feeling better match after match." Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois was named the man of the match as he was key to keep Stuttgart from capitalizing on its many scoring opportunities. Mbappé had been mostly quiet until scoring, with one of his clearest chances coming in the 25th minute after he entered the area and had his low shot was saved. He was free inside the area a couple of minutes later, but Federico Valverde's low cross to the France star was intercepted by a defender.

Madrid struggled to create many significant scoring opportunities early on at the Bernabeu. It was Stuttgart that threatened the most, including with a couple of one-on-one situations and an attempt that hit the crossbar. Vinícius Júnior also hit the crossbar for Madrid.

Mbappé won the 2018 World Cup with France but failed to win the Champions League in the seven seasons with Paris Saint-Germain, which was also on a quest for its first title in Europe's top club competition.

The playmaker left PSG as a free agent at the end of last season to join Madrid following a decade-long pursuit by the Spanish powerhouse — a move could boost his chances of lifting the European trophy with the team that has won the Champions League six times in the last 11 years. Mbappé reached the semifinals of the club competition in 2017 with Monaco and was a beaten finalist in 2020 with PSG.

Real Madrid's Kylian Mbappé (2nd right) celebrates with teammates after scoring a goal against Stuttgart duirng their UEFA Champions League match at Santiago Bernabéu Stadium in Madrid, Spain.

Bayern smash Zagreb, Kane scores four

MUNICH: Harry Kane broke Wayne Rooney's record for the most Champions League goals by an English player when the Bayern Munich striker netted four times against Croatia's Dinamo Zagreb.

It was one of several records broken as Bayern routed Dinamo Zagreb 9-2 in one of the highest-scoring games in Champions League history — and an emphatic start to European competition for new coach Vincent Kompany. "Amazing game, a bit of a crazy game for sure," Kane said. "To score all those goals in the end was a great night." Kane took his tally to 33 in the competition by scoring in the 19th, 53rd, 73rd and 78th minutes — three of the goals were penalties — to surpass Rooney's record of 30. "To be honest, after the second (penalty) I didn't really know what to do with the third one, but thankfully I was able to put it away," Kane said.

Kane opened the scoring from the penalty spot to give Bayern the lead That drew Kane level with Rooney's record of 30, and he scored his 31st on a rebound after goalkeeper Ivan Nevistic parried Joshua Kimmich's shot in the 57th. AP

In Brief

HYDERABAD

Sowmya joins India training camp

Footballer G Sowmya joined the senior national women's training camp, scheduled to be held in Goa from September 20 to October 15. This camp will serve as preparation for the upcoming SAFF Women's Championship from October 15 to 30 in Nepal. The All India Football Federation appointed Santosh Kashyap as the new head coach senior women's team.

HYDERABAD

Rashmikaa progresses in Australia

Hyderabad tennis player Shrivalli Rashmikaa Bhamidipaty progressed into the second round of the singles event of the ITF Women's World Tennis Tour, W75 Perth ($60,000) Tennis Tournament in Australia on Wednesday. In the first round match, the State player defeated Alexandra Bozovic of Australia 6-3, 6-0.

HYDERABAD

Raja Sekhar Indian team coach

VN Raja Sekhar, weightlifting coach at the Sports Authority of India (SAI) National Center of Excellence (NCOE), is the senior team coach of India in the ongoing Commonwealth Weightlifting Senior, Junior & Youth Championship at Suva, Fiji. Under his guidance, the team aims to showcase their strength on this international stage.

Rishab, Bhagath star with four-fers

SPORTS BUREAU
Hyderabad

Rishab Baslas and K Bhagath Varma's four-wicket hauls powered Team Yellow to a 33-run victory over Team Purple on day three of the HCA Men's Senior Zonals (Multi-Day) Tournament in Hyderabad on Wednesday.

Chasing 350, Team Purple was bowled out for 316 in 47.1 overs, despite N Sathwik Reddy's valiant 116-ball 121 (12x4, 3x6) and solid contributions from P Gaurav Reddy (56) and Aryan Cariappa (42). Earlier, Team Yellow declared at 289/7 in 78 overs, with Vidyananda Reddy's impressive 5/73 keeping Team Purple in the contest before they faltered in the chase.

BRIEF SCORES: Team Yellow 257 & 289/7 in 78 overs (Chandan Sahani 81, G Rithish Reddy 52, K Bhagath Varma 65, Vidyananda Reddy 5/73) bt Team Purple 197 & 316 in 47.1 overs (P Gaurav Reddy 56, N Sathwik Reddy 121, Aryan Cariappa 42, Rishab Baslas 4/106, K Bhagath Varma 4/94); Team Orange 330 in 89.3 overs & (Ajay Dev Goud 4/49) & 151 in 54.1 overs (Harish Thakur 66, CTL Rakshann Readdi 5/41) lost to Team Blue 318 & 166/6 in 30.5 overs (Sunkari Dheeraj 64 no, G Aniketh Reddy 52, Mirza Muddasir Baig 3/23).

Malvika stuns Olympic medallist Tunjung

CHANGZHOU

Young Malvika Bansod pulled off a sensational straight-game victory over Paris Olympics bronze medallist Gregoria Mariska Tunjung of Indonesia in the women's singles opening round in the China Open Super 100 badminton tournament here on Wednesday.

The 22-year-old Indian, ranked 43rd in the world, displayed immense grit as she saved a game point thrice in the opening game to defeat the world No. 7 Indonesian Tunjung, seeded fifth, 26-24 21-19 in a 46-minute match.

Malvika, a B. Tech graduate in computer science from SRM University in Chennai, will next take on Scotland's Kristy Gilmour in the next round. She was the sole Indian bright spot in the women's singles as compatriots Aakarshi Kashyap and Samiya Imad Farooqui exited in the first round. PTI

Malvika Bansod is ranked 43rd in the world.

Horoscope

J U B Sastry

ARIES
Aries (March 21-April 20)

You may try to send across a message that you are innovative in all respects besides being totally different from others. But in your enthusiasm to impress friends and relations, you may forget the fact that your work has already been tried by someone and abandoned due to lack of response. You may catch this very late. Recognise the need to learn fast.

TAURUS
(April 21-May 21)

You may fear that you have a date with destiny in near future. If you have a legal case pending, people close to you may instil fears in mind about impending result. With Venus attracting affliction in the other ruling quarters, you may also be at a disadvantageous position. Strength of rivals will turn out to be your weakness. Act diplomatically.

GEMINI
(May 22- June 21)

You may expect some assurances from siblings on financial matters. With Mars set to rule financial affairs, financial dependence on brothers and sisters will force you to reschedule priorities and change their deadlines. But don't take for granted the support of siblings forever as you may be ditched any time. Have you ever thought that siblings too are in financial soup?

CANCER
(June 22- July 22)

Your family may hold a secret related to one of the youngsters at home. Despite efforts to protect it, it may be out due to the loose tongue of the youngster involved in questionable deals. It may produce adverse reactions from others and you may feel disappointed. If you are a youngster, you would be responsible for unrest at home.

LEO
(July 23-Aug. 23)

You may tend to adopt a different policy for each of your friends. Your abilities to twist logic to suit your needs will be in full display. As rivals are active, your team of manipulators will efficiently guide you on how best you can hoodwink people around you. You will take pride in your ability to make others fall in line with you.

VIRGO
(Aug. 24-Sept. 23)

You may get new responsibilities at the workplace. You may feel uncomfortable in handling the disliked work but your hesitation in openly expressing unwillingness may sidetrack your attitude. It will lead to developing hidden animosities and take away mental happiness. It is your responsibility to safeguard image while sustaining relations.

LIBRA
(Sept. 24-Oct. 23)

With Mars losing immense strength in debilitation zone, you may become the target of colleagues at the workplace. They may not hesitate in pointing out your mistakes as you are set to complete the tasks. However, you may not think of the mistakes while searching for reasons that prompted them to point fingers at you. You may develop vindictive nature.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

Your attitude and mindset may look peculiar to some people around you. You may set forth disgusting terms and conditions while others expect something from you but you would prefer it to be unconditional while expecting things from others. Your illogical attitude may force others to think that you are narrow-minded to the core. Don't display such attitude.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 23-Dec. 21)

You may be a disciplined and active person to the core in general. But occasionally, you may be lethargic, and such an occasion may arrive for you. If you want to prove otherwise, wake up early in the morning and do some exercises. Also meditate for a while to remove all negative and disappointing thoughts from mind.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22-Jan. 20)

If you are a youngster, you may be in a dilemma over deciding on an important issue concerning career. This may relate to your inability to zero in on wide choices of opportunities unveiling before you. In a way, you would do better by discussing the issue with well-wishers at home or outside instead of wasting precious time.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 21-Feb. 19)

You may be branded as insensitive to issues. A lot of activity may take place around you but you will remain insensitive. You may feel you don't need to respond to each and every happening around you but there is the danger of your attitude being misconstrued. If you are part of an organisation, you may be drafted for more serious work.

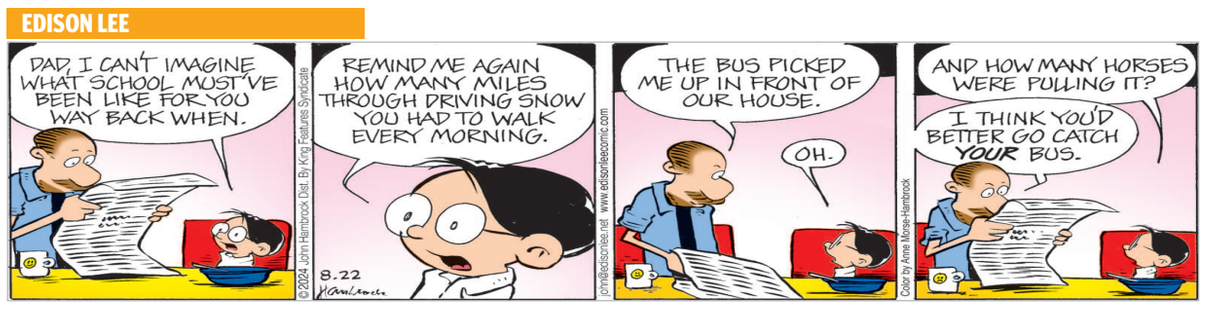
PISCES
(Feb. 20-March 20)

With ruling entity Jupiter being squared by Saturn, you may think there is no room for secrets in life. You will be ready to discuss ideas and issues with others freely. You may be eager to share ideology with youngsters at home and the workplace. You will let others know about your experiences, successes and failures as you think they are good lessons for others.

COMIC STRIPS

CALVIN & HOBBES

EDISON LEE



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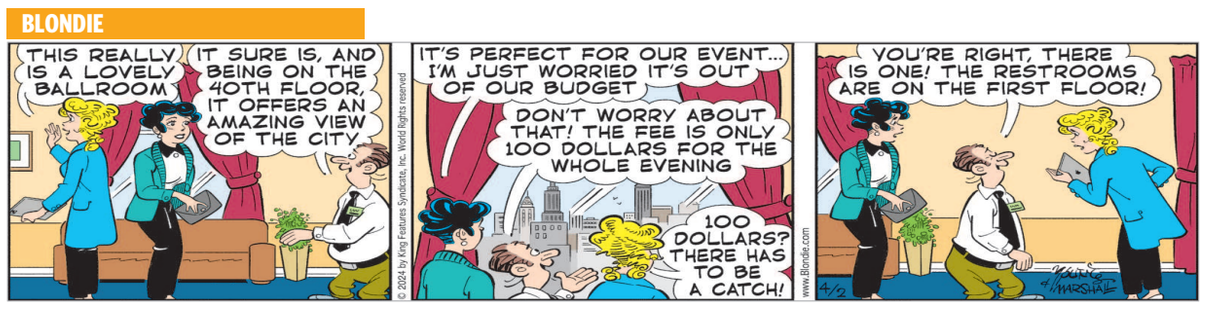
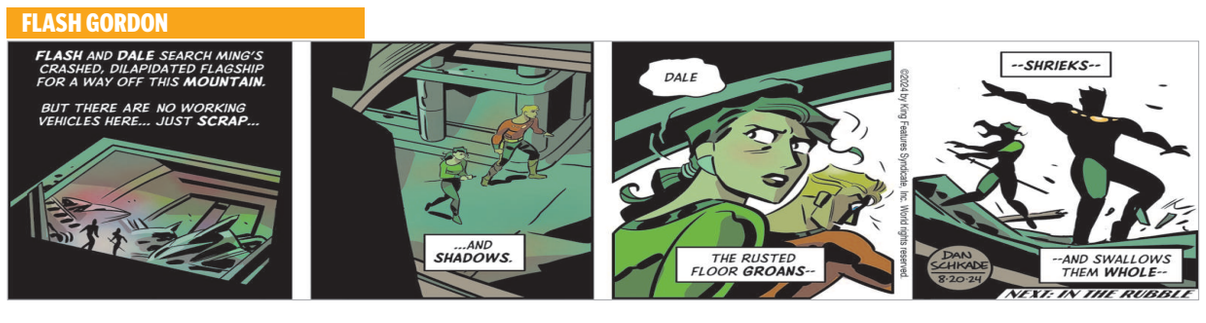
FLASH GORDON